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HISTORY

OF THE
12th REGIMENT, YORK RANGERS

WITH

SOME ACCOUNT OF THE DIFFERENT
RAISING OF MILITIA

IN THE
COUNTY OF YORK, ONTARIO

BY

214329
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CAPT. A. T. HUNTER

G COMPANY, 12th REGIMENT, YORK RANGERS

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PREFACE



E have tried in this volume to link up some of the honorable achievements of militia men of York County for a century back and show what the response has been when the bugle sounded or the alarm bell rang. We think we can discern in the men of this county a continuity of character; of deceptive equanimity in time of peace, of alacrity in time of war, of unchangeable faith in the Empire at all times.

We need not pretend that the officers and men of 1912 in the 12th Regiment are the precise lineal descendants of the officers and men of the York Regiments of 1812, any more than the Welsh Fusiliers need show they answer to the same names at roll-call as when they advanced with drums beating at the Battle of Minden. The continuity of a regiment is not at any time very tangible or definite. It is not a genealogy written by a lawyer to secure an estate. It is rather the spirit to undertake similar toils and endure similar dangers in consideration of being allowed to keep the old glory and the old heroes in dutiful remembrance and to emulate them if occasion arise.

It is time the histories of all our county regiments were written. Despite a number of charming books in which fragments of our Upper Canadian history have been transcribed by men of scholarly style and antiquarian attainments, the real history of nearly every county is being irremediably lost. This is particularly true of the military history of our counties, which when studied repays the student by glimpses of heroic action and then baffles him with records broken and defaced by callous neglect.

Most of our old county histories and atlases were written on a subscription plan which was unavoidable in a country where the arts of literature and publishing were struggling and precarious vocations. Under such a plan the man who could pay for his biography became a personage, while the man who could not was allowed to seek an ignoble grave. This bore hard upon the military veteran who is seldom the most prosperous or provident of men.

We are therefore much indebted to the subscribers and advertisers whose liberality has enabled this sketch to be produced.

A. T. HUNTER.



Photo by Kennedy

*Lieut.-Col. J. A. W. ALLAN,
Commanding 12th Regt. York Rangers*

CHAPTER I

CONCERNING A DECEPTION PRACTISED BY THE PEOPLE OF UPPER CANADA PRIOR TO JULY, 1812

ROBABLY no nation ever showed fewer external signs of either the desire or the capacity for martial activity than did the people of Upper Canada prior to the war-storm of 1812. It is true that the first Lieutenant-Governor, General Simcoe, never ceased to brood over the difficulties and dangers that threatened (and still threaten) the defence of this Province in case war should actually break out. Indeed amidst his colonizing activities as ruler of Western Canada he was still what he was in the war of the American Revolution, the ardent but sagaciously observant leader of the Queen's Rangers; thinking rather of where his magazines might be safe than of where the greatest commerce could be developed; and tracing his great roads, Dundas and Yonge Streets, with an eye less to the laborious procession of market wagons than of a rapid concentration of troops on interior lines. From mere military necessity the first provincial capital, Newark (now Niagara-on-the-Lake), had to be abandoned as the political and commercial metropolis. The selection of Toronto (then York) was not by design of Simcoe, who meant London to be his fortifiable camp or by design of Simcoe's superior, the Governor of Canada, who for equally good military reasons favoured Kingston as his arsenal. But this deadlock of strategic intelligence between these worthy soldiers secured by a sort of compromise the selection of the then by no means salubrious, easily defensible or commercially promising harbour on the north shore of Ontario, where in our time is reared a city which like Babylon of old says, "I sit a queen and am no widow and shall see no sorrow." The wisdom of both the Lieutenant-Governor and the Governor was justified of its children, when in 1813, York, indefensible, once the command of the Lake is lost, fell after enveloping defenders and assailants in the ruins of its fortifications. Then as now Toronto was a good nurse of men and an improvident custodian of material. But the temper of the English speaking race, especially on this continent is rather to endure than to avert disasters that elementary military sagacity can readily foresee.

Nor were Provincial Parliaments negligent in their provision,—by word of statute,—for making the able-bodied colonist contribute for at least one day in the year his person equipped as the words ran, "with a good and sufficient musket, fusil, rifle or gun." These Militia Acts of the Legislature beginning with the session of 1793 were sufficiently numerous and contradictory to require to be consolidated in 1808 according to a process of annual emendation and periodical codification, which has gone on continuously until our own day. For the outcome of attempts to create a national army on paper, when the bulk of our citizens mean

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to sacrifice neither their own time nor their own money in organizing a force in reality, is that we adopt the eternal subterfuge of varying the phraseology of our militia acts and regulations, making new subdivisions of what does not exist and by multiplying officers of high rank persuade ourselves that we have soldiers to command.

However, the Parliaments of Upper Canada and in their turn those of the Province and the Dominion of Canada have fortunately never surrendered their original power of enrolling the entire able bodied population in the defence of their country. But the original system of mustering the enrolled on one day in the year has now for many years perished under the assaults of that enemy before whom the most mail-clad chivalry is powerless,—namely, the ridicule that grows out of absurdity.

In the early years of the last century, however, and for that matter down to the time of men now living the captain still solemnly mustered his enrolled neighbours and they as regularly failed to turn up for that period of one absurd day, which had no instructional value to the forces and no pay value to the recruits. Year by year the Legislature with verbal relentlessness amended the statute to make more effective the fines of the absentees. But Capt. Armstrong, the village butcher, forebore to press the case of non-attendance against the son of Farmer Brown of the side line. And if he did press it nevertheless for some unaccountable reason the harness-maker and the flour-and-feed merchant, who as Justices of the Peace had been forced to inflict the fine took no steps to collect it.

Nor could the House of Assembly in 1812 composed as it was of men extremely sensitive to those popular feelings of self-government which had been unpleasantly ruffled by that intermittent Governor, Sir Francis Gore,¹ be considered symptomatic of any great desire to lift the drawbridges of peace and strengthen the hands of military authority. While making a reluctant war grant of £5,000 they refused to suspend Habeas Corpus or pass an alien law; and until the end of their session when they passed a sufficiently high and patriotic resolution they acted with a meticulous caution that could not have offended the least belligerent or most pro-American voter in Upper Canada.

Seeking reasons for this delicacy of the politicians we find that the original loyalist settlers of the province were now apparently outnumbered by American and other foreign accretions to the population. It is, therefore, not surprising that even astute thinkers should believe the people of Upper Canada a race of men possessed equally by a rage for making money and a contempt for old-fashioned loyalty and the use of arms. It did not occur to observers in Old Upper Canada in 1812, as perhaps it does not occur to observers in Saskatchewan in 1912, that the placid sentiment of the settler, who has left his own country to improve his lot, is as potmetal to steel to that intense but undemonstrative loyalty which with some men has all the force of a religion.

Nor had the professional soldiers done or been allowed to do anything to make defensible this great territory. Fort George at Niagara and Fort Malden at Amherstburg were dismantled and in a state of ruin. Despite the continuous

1. He slipped out just before the war and slipped back just after.

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threat of war a mere peace establishment of troops less than sixteen hundred in all—barely sufficient for parade purposes and to act as caretakers of stores—were grudgingly maintained throughout the province.¹ To supplement this pigmy force the more enthusiastic of the militia in each of the paper regiments were encouraged to drill six times a month, forming what were then known as “Flank Companies.” These Flank Companies, with their captain, two subalterns, two sergeants, one drummer and thirty-five rank and file bear a fine ancestral resemblance to the average militia company that in our own time can be seen on a June day training at Niagara-on-the-Lake. They were provided with arms and accoutrements and promised clothes and rations. Prior to the war some seven hundred of them were embodied.²

With such an ostensible force to make good a territory difficult in its internal communications and so large that its southerly frontier alone from Amherstburg to the Lower Province presents a line double the length of the frontier between France and Germany with Belgium thrown in, it is not surprising that military experts should have considered a successful defence impossible. Accordingly historians may well deal with all leniency with that somewhat inadequate hero, Sir George Prevost, the Governor-General, whose most sanguine hope of any good to come out of Upper Canada was that by making a flank movement in his favour the forces in the Upper Province might enable him to save Quebec.

The American Government apparently was as much convinced as the Governor of Canada of the ease with which this province could be added to the domains of the United States. The Secretary of War declared, “We can take the Canadas without soldiers, we have only to send officers into the province and the people disaffected towards their own government will rally round our own standard.”³

Henry Clay, then a rising orator and fast becoming a political pet of the American nation said: “We have the Canadas as much under our command as Great Britain has the ocean.”⁴

Such then in the beginning of 1812 was the apparently hopeless position of this as a British province: large in territory, any part of which could easily be invaded and small in population⁵ and that population seemingly lukewarm and undecided.

In the event, the people of Upper Canada sprang to their weapons with a furious alacrity that staggered the calculations of both politicians and generals, and extorted the admiration of the most hardened professional soldiers. The Iron Duke himself speaking of their achievements as late as 1840 said that it had been “demonstrated that these provinces (with but little assistance from the mother

1. 200 Royal Veterans, 36 Royal Artillery, 900 41st Regiment, 400 Newfoundland Regiment, 50 Provincial Seamen; according to a letter by John Galt, to the Treasury, published in *Canadian Archives*, 1897, p. 49.

2. “General Brock,” by Lady Edgar, p. 181.

3. Among the prophets, without honour in their own country, was Mr. Sheffey, of Virginia, who frankly told his fellow countrymen: “Upper Canada is inhabited by emigrants from the United States. They will not come back to you; they will not without reason desert the government to whom they have gone for protection. No sir, you must conquer it by force, not by sowing the seeds of sedition and treason among the people.” These words may be heartily commended to students of the “American Invasion” of our North West provinces.

4. We trust the ocean will never be as unruly in our day to Great Britain as the Canadas proved in 1812 to the United States.

5. Calculated at 77,000: See Castell Hopkins’ *Canada an Encyclopaedia*, Vol. 1, p. 175.

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country in regular troops) are capable of defending themselves against all the efforts of their powerful neighbours."¹

What martial force was latent in the militia of Upper Canada can best be estimated by their having in conjunction with the sturdy little bands of regulars, either destroyed or defeated during the first campaign four well appointed and supremely confident American armies,—Hull's at Detroit, Van Rensselaer's at Queenston, Smyth's at Fort Erie and Winchester's at Frenchtown. Whence we may infer that while strategists may with some show of certainty weigh the chances of a clash between the trained forces of two countries, it is another matter when a whole people stand up and number themselves and commit the issue to the God of Battles.

1. This was one of the last great efforts of Wellington in the House of Lords. He was always extremely solicitous for the defence of Upper Canada: "If you lose that, you lose all your colonies in that country; and if you lose them, you may as well lose London."

CHAPTER II

THE RAISING OF THE YORKS

HE modern County of York does not by any means comprise the territory which in 1812 and for many years later was designated "York." Stretching westward from the eastern boundaries of what is now Ontario County as far as the Reserve on the Grand River was a thinly settled district, bearing the name of York, and since divided into a number of prosperous counties any one of which has now far more of population than the York of 1812.

Dealing alone with the modern county limits, its population comprised such a variety of diverse settlements that it would have been a wise prophet who could have foretold what action would be theirs in the event of a war with the United States. The Village of York¹ (formerly and later again Toronto) with its few hundred inhabitants was of course staunch for the Empire.

And there was a good sprinkling throughout the settled parts of the County of the descendants of those United Empire Loyalists, who had received grants of lands in Upper Canada as a recompense for their sacrifices in the war of the American Revolution.² Of what these would do on a call to arms there could be no doubt.

But there were other settlers whose interest in maintaining the British Empire was not quite so obvious. The Oak Ridges had been settled by French Emigrés—nobles, "whose roots were in France,"—and who like the famous Count de Puisaye preferred to hover over the wars of the French Revolution like stormy petrels rather than plow their future as plain colonists in York County.

The neighbourhood of Markham, formerly known as the "German Mills," was settled by matter-of-fact Germans, whose location there was a feat of pure business reason and not a matter of sentiment. There were Quakers too, of undoubted loyalty, but for conscience sake averse to taking up the sword.³

Moreover, there were a considerable number of Americans who had been allured to this region by the fertile beauty of its rich rolling lands. These and their descendants and sundry others, who imbibed from them republican sentiments, were a source of anxiety and in some instances of danger to the defenders of Canada. The most notable instance of this was Ex-sheriff Joseph Willcocks, who having lost his shrievalty on political grounds, started a newspaper in 1807: was elected,

1. Described a couple of years later by Dr. Dunlop as "a dirty straggling village with about sixty houses."

2. Among these grantees was no less a personage than General Benedict Arnold, known in American popular histories as "The Traitor"; but recognized now by philosophic historians as something of a military genius. He had a farm on Yonge Street in the vicinity of Richmond Hill.

3. A descendant of one of these, sitting in the County Council, has assisted to discontinue the annual grant of the Council to the York Rangers Rifle Match.



Photos by Kennedy

Major A. G. NICOL

Major A. CURRAN

*Capt. F. H. DUNHAM
Adjutant*

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expelled and re-elected as a member of parliament with advanced republican views; and led His Majesty's more or less loyal opposition to the then powers-that-be. On the outbreak of the war, he at first loyally bore arms on the Canadian side. But later he deserted with some few other militia whom he could influence and became a terror to the harassed farmers of the Niagara District until his fitful light was extinguished in honourable battle at the leaguer of Fort Erie.¹

Notwithstanding the difficulties that must be supposed to have attended the raising of active militia in this vicinity or perhaps on account of those difficulties no sooner was the call made than the flank companies were ready to take the field.

There were in 1812 three regiments of York Militia,² of which the Second regiment was recruited in the vicinity of Burlington. So that when we read of the achievements of Capt. Chisholm's or Capt. Applegarth's flank company at Queenston or Lundy's Lane, we know we are reading that which might and should be a source of pride to the citizens of Hamilton City or Wentworth County.

The Third Regiment was recruited in the vicinity of York and its flank companies are known to history as Cameron and Heward's Companies. The First Regiment was recruited from further up the county and was composed of North and South Divisions.³ More interesting to the historian is that it included a rifle company under Capt. Peter Robinson, a troop of cavalry under Capt. John Button, and a flank company under Capt. Thomas Selby. It is more particularly this regiment which included Selby's and Robinson's Companies that in the opinion of that most painstaking and accurate of Canadian historians, Col. Cruikshank,⁴ is now represented by the present 12th Regiment of York Rangers.

It may not be amiss to say a few words anent the personality of those officers of these two regiments, the 1st and 3rd Yorks, whom the war brought out from the ordinary dull unthanked routine of militia work into the danger zone of active service. We find that the regiments were apt to interchange officers and were as closely connected as the different battalions of one regiment.

William Graham, Commandant of the First Regiment, had been a captain in the Duke of Cumberland's Provincial Regiment and a captain of York Militia as far back as 1798.

William Chewitt, lieutenant-colonel of the 3rd, had served in the British Militia during the siege of Quebec in 1775-76. He was fated in 1813 through no fault of his own to put his signature to a document evidencing a less successful defence of York. He was afterwards colonel of the 1st York, resigning in 1818. In his civil capacity he was Deputy Surveyor General and prominent in all social and charitable movements in Toronto.

William Allan, whose descendant, Senator Allan, has presented to Toronto the beautiful horticultural park that bears his name, was a military enthusiast;

1. "Toronto of Old": Seadding, p. 272.

2. The earliest militia regiment established at York bears date 1798. See the list of officers printed in "Landmarks of Toronto," Vol. 2, p. 686, and comprising such well known Toronto names as Small, Jarvis, Chewitt, Allan, Denison and Cameron.

3. See officers of British Forces in Canada during War 1812-15: L. Homfray Irving.

4. See Letter printed in Appendix.

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Lieutenant in the militia regiment that was started in York in 1798, he joined the 3rd York Regiment on its organization and started a flank company in the village. At the date when Broek called the flank companies to service he was major and appears to have had the duty of collecting the Yorks at the Head of the Lake. After the battle of Queenston Heights he had the responsible duty of commanding the escort to the prisoners on their way to Quebec. In April, 1813, he shared with Col. Chewitt, the unpleasant task of arranging terms for the surrender of York.

THE FIGHTING JUDGES

Historians of the War of 1812 have said that practically the whole male population of the province was drawn into the vortex of the war. This is true of the lawyers of that day, who showed themselves as able to make bold charges in the field as ever they were reputed to do in their offices. So that in the post bellum days there sat seven war judges on the bench of Upper Canada and of these seven, two had been officers in the Yorks.

Archibald McLean, afterwards Chief Justice, fought with the Yorks at Detroit and Queenston, and with the Incorporated Militia at Lundy's Lane. Being wounded at Queenston and taken prisoner at Lundy's Lane he had more war experience to cogitate than usually falls to the lot of a chief justicee.

John Beverley Robinson, afterwards Chief Justice of Upper Canada, served with distinction at Detroit, left Toronto a law student to take part at Queenston and returned to find himself acting Attorney General. He left his impress on the public life and laws of this province. Among his sons, John Beverley was Lieutenant Governor, Christopher was a lawyer of international celebrity and Major-General C. W. Robinson is a soldier and an historian, who if he has succeeded in making his readers understand the value of the command of Lake Ontario will have surpassed in service to this country his distinguished father.

CHAPTER III

HOW THE YORK MILITIA WENT WITH BROCK TO DETROIT, AND HOW PETER ROBINSON'S RIFLE COMPANY KEPT TRYST

NE day in the later part of July, 1812, General Brock called out the York Militia on Garrison Common. The days previous to this parade had been filled with anxious preparation by the flank companies, who were anticipating the event and by extraordinary exertions on the part of the General himself. The American General Hull had proceeded to take possession of Western Canada in a Proclamation to the Inhabitants, in which he threatened to emancipate them from tyranny and oppression and restore them to the dignified station of freemen. This had been answered by a counter Proclamation from Brock (prepared by the facile pen of Mr. Justice Powell), and by a small expedition sent under Capt. Roberts to capture Mackinac.

The proclamations on either side were barren of result, but the Mackinac expedition proving a complete success the weight of argument remained with the British.

On July 12th, simultaneously with his proclamation, Hull commanding a formidable army described by himself as "a force which will look down all opposition," crossed over to Sandwich, where he planted the American standard. His subsequent performance was characterized by feebleness in action and even against the scanty forces that could be collected to delay him, his looking down of opposition did not take him beyond the little river Canard, where a handful of troops, militia and Indians damped his military aggressiveness.

News of this invasion having reached Toronto, General Brock with a party of soldiers *rowed across the Lake* to Niagara¹ to put the frontier there in such a state of defence as means permitted; and immediately *rowed* back in the same boat and called out the militia.

The proposal that the General had to make must have seemed not much more seductive than the privilege of the three hundred Lacedemonians to occupy Thermopylæ. He declared his intention to take an expedition from what is now Port Dover² and proceed thence by boats to Amherstburg. But owing to the limited transportation at his command he could only take one hundred volunteers from York, the same number from the head of the Lake (now Hamilton) and an equal number from Port Dover. He called for volunteers; many more men volunteered than could be taken and all the officers. From that hour Brock was

1. A matter of thirty-three miles to the river mouth.

2. Long Point was the rendezvous where they finally got together.

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not and Britain never need be in doubt as to what response will be given by the Canadian militia.

Capt. Heward, of the 3rd Yorks, was selected to command the one hundred men of York, and under him were detailed for duty Lieut. John Beverley Robinson, of his own flank company; Lieut. Jarvie,¹ of Cameron's Company, and Lieut. Richardson, of Selby's flank company of the 1st Yorks.²

Captain Peter Robinson, also of the 1st Yorks, was by a special act of grace permitted to take his company of riflemen³ overland to the scene of action,—it being hardly suspected that he could ever succeed in arriving before the matter would be decided.

The little force left York on August 6th for Burlington Bay⁴ and picking up the other Yorks from that region marched overland to the rendezvous. On the way thither Brock dropped a word in the ear of the Six Nation Chiefs. And this by the way is one answer to the critics of Brock's aggressive strategy. For both Americans and British were much solicitous about those formidable skirmishers, the Indians; each side trying to persuade the astute chiefs that it possessed an overwhelming superiority. The chiefs on the other hand, mindful of the teachings of recent history, before committing their warriors to an unqualified support of England, required to be shown that the British officers were in earnest and meant to defend Upper Canada tooth and nail. The march past of Brock with his scarlet coated militia⁵ was to the practical Indian several hundred eloquent and convincing orations to stand by his ally the King.

To us familiar with the ease in which now a trip can be made in a few hours from Toronto to Detroit it seems strange that so energetic a general should commit his force to a water trip of two hundred miles on a huge and treacherous lake rather than continue his march westward until he reached the River. Nor does the wonder diminish when we find that the lake boats collected for his expedition were not such luxurious craft as we entrust ourselves to at this day when tempting the waters of the Great Lakes, but the open boats or batteaux of that day propelled by the steady sweep of the long two-handed oar.

But when we read of what toils befell overland passengers, in the many days it took them to win from the Detroit to the Grand through a forest land, where the streams had no bridges⁶ and the roads no existence, we can well understand why Brock took the dangerous water route and with what sardonic kindness he permitted Peter Robinson's company to go by land.

1. Not to be confused with Jarvis. The irrepressible Samuel Peters Jarvis then an ensign in Heward's Company had succeeded in being attached to the 41st Regiment, and duly appeared at Detroit and several other battlefields.

2. See order quoted in Scadding at p. 79.

3. The distinction between Infantry and Rifles in those days was an actual one—the infantry being armed with muskets, and not rifles. Nowadays this distinction is a quaint survival of military etiquette of great importance and interest to solemn and punctilious asses.

4. Showing the confidence Brock had in his one hundred York volunteers he allowed them three days to visit their relatives and make preparations for campaign: Auchinleck, p. 36.

5. Seemingly the flank companies got their caps and blankets at York and their regimental coats at Burlington. Of muskets Brock himself said he had not one more than sufficient to arm the active militia. Boots for the militia and tents Brock could not provide by prayer or purchase until at any rate he took over the stores at Detroit.

6. It was an ingenious device the early pioneer had for an amphibious wagon; a water tight body into which, when he came to an unfordable stream, he lifted the wheels and poled across with the horses swimming behind.

HISTORY OF THE 12TH REGIMENT, YORK RANGERS

The toils of this argonautic expedition,—consisting of some forty men of the 41st Regiment and two hundred and sixty militia,—cannot be better expressed than in the diary of William McCay,¹ who was a volunteer in Captain Hatt's company, which had proceeded from the camp of Queenston to join Brock's little army. Hatt's contingent had a merry wagon ride from Queenston to Fort Erie, and from there had rowed to the mouth of the Grand River. We take up McCay's narrative from this point until he reached Fort Malden.

"August 7th, 1812.—We slept under the trees on the bank of the river, arose early and set off. We did not land until we came to Patterson's Creek, about forty miles from the Grand River. Here we were informed that the volunteers from York, some of the 41st Regiment and some militia lay that were to go with us.

"August 8th, 1812.—Slept on shore in the best manner we could. Two of our company deserted this morning, James Bycraft and Harvey Thorne. We did not leave this place until 12 o'clock, when we set off and came to Long Point in the evening, drew our boats across and put up for the night.

"August 9th, 1812.—Arose early this morning and about sunrise were joined by General Brock and six boat loads with troops from Patterson's Creek. We all set off together, having a fair wind till about 1 o'clock, and then rowed till night, when we landed at Kettle Creek, about six miles below Port Talbot.

"August 10th, 1812.—Wet and cold last night; some of us lay in boats and some on the sand. We set off early, but the wind blew so hard we were obliged to put into Port Talbot. We covered our baggage from the rain, which still continued, and most of us set out to get something to eat, being tired of bread and pork. Five of us found our way to a place, where we got a very good breakfast, bought some butter and sugar and returned. Lay here all day, the wind being high.

"August 11th, 1812.—Set off early with a fair wind, but it soon blew so hard we had to land on the beach and draw up our boats, having come twelve or fifteen

1. Published in *The Toronto Globe*, April 15th, 1911.



Photo by Kennedy

*The Remains of Old Fort Malden
The Tree to the left is said to be the finest Linden
in America*

HISTORY OF THE 12TH REGIMENT, YORK RANGERS

m les. Some of us built camps and covered them with bark to shelter us from the rain, which poured down incessantly, but I was obliged to go on guard, wet as I was. Some of our men discovered horse tracks a few miles above us, which we supposed were American horsemen, for we were informed they came within a few miles of Port Talbot.

"August 12th, 1812.—We set off before daylight and came on until breakfast time, when we stopped at Point¹—where we found plenty of sand cherries. They are just getting ripe and very good. We continued our journey all night, which was very fatiguing, being so crowded in the boats we could not lie down.

"August 13th, 1812.—We came to a settlement this morning, the first since we left Port Talbot. The inhabitants informed us the Americans had all retired to their own side of the river, also that there was a skirmish between our troops and them on their own side, that is, the American side of the river. We made no stop, only to boil our pork, but kept on until 2 o'clock, when we lay on the beach until morning. Some of the boats with the General went on.

"August 14th, 1812.—We landed at Fort Malden about 8 o'clock, very tired with rowing, and our faces burned with the sun until the skin came off. Malden is about two miles from the lake, up the river, in which there are several small islands. The banks are low and well cultivated near the river, but a wilderness back from it. Our company was marched to the storehouse, where we took out our baggage and dried it and cleaned our guns; were paraded at 11 o'clock and all our arms and ammunition that were damaged were replaced. We then rambled about the town until evening, when all the troops that were in Amherstburg were paraded on the commons. They were calculated at eight or nine hundred men."

Two orders of General Brock² are of interest to students of what is now appropriately called amphibious warfare and show that the General meant to be in the forefront of the flotilla³ and that he had his anxieties.

Headquarters, Banks of Lake Erie,
15 Miles S.W. of Port Talbot,
August 11th, 1812, 6 o'clock, p.m.

General Orders:

The troops will hold themselves in readiness, and will embark in the boats at twelve o'clock this night precisely.

It is Major General Brock's positive order that none of the boats go ahead of that in which is the Head Quarters, where a light will be carried during the night.

The officers commanding the different boats will immediately inspect the arms and ammunition of the men, and see that they are constantly kept in a state for immediate service, as the troops are now to pass through a part of the country, which is known to have been visited by the enemy's patrols.

1. Probably Point Pelée.

2. Published in Richardson, p. 48.

3. He had learned his ideas of military prudence by serving under Nelson at Copenhagen.

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A captain, with a subaltern and thirty men, will mount as piquet upon the landing of the boats and a sentry will be furnished from each boat, who must be regularly relieved to take charge of the boats and baggage, etc.

A patrol from the piquet will be sent out on landing to the distance of a mile from the encampment.

By order of the Major General.

J. B. GLEGG, Capt. A.D.C.

J. MACDONELL, P.A.D.C.

Point Aux Pins,

Lake Erie, August 12th, 1812.

General Orders:

It is Major General Brock's intention should the wind continue fair, to proceed during the night. Officers commanding boats will therefore pay attention to the order of sailing as directed yesterday. The greatest care and attention will be requested to prevent the boats from scattering or falling behind.

A great part of the bank of the lake, which the boats will this day pass, is much more dangerous and difficult of access than any we have passed. The boats therefore will not land, excepting in the most extreme necessity, and then great care must be taken to choose the best places for landing.

The troops being now in the neighbourhood of the enemy, every precaution must be taken to guard against surprise.

By order of the Major General,

J. B. GLEGG, A.D.C.

That Brock knew what to do when a marine emergency arose is proved by the fact that when his own boat ran hard aground, like the standard bearer of Cæsar's Tenth Legion, he set the example by leaping into the water.¹ From which we can understand the meaning of Lieut. Robinson (afterwards exalted to the rank of Chief Justice), when as late as 1840 he expressed a vivid remembrance of his general in the words: "It would have required much more courage to refuse to follow General Brock than to go with him wherever he would lead."

Referring to his comrades in this campaign the same brilliant soldier-judge has written:—"This body of men consisted of farmers, mechanics and gentlemen, who before that time had not been accustomed to any exposure unusual with persons of the same description in other countries. They marched on foot and travelled in boats and vessels, nearly six hundred miles in going and returning, in the hottest part of the year, sleeping occasionally on the ground and frequently drenched with rain, but not a man was left behind in consequence." Perhaps

1. Lady Edgar, p. 231.

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their best eulogy is in Brock's own words: "Their conduct throughout excited my admiration."

The other events of this wonderful campaign, the going up to Sandwich, the crossing of the Detroit with Brock standing in the bow of the foremost boat, and the stupendous surrender of Hull's army to a little force of whom the Americans complained "four hundred were Canadian militia disguised in red coats,"¹ —are not these related in the chronicles.

What much searching of history will further reveal is that the indefatigable Peter Robinson and his Rifle Company of the 1st Yorks, having reached Sandwich in time to share in all these glorious operations, was given the honour of going aboard as body-guard to Brock himself on a very small trading schooner; which after nearly running aground at Buffalo was eventually towed into harbour at Fort Erie.

1. No bad guess: the red coats were actually the cast-off clothing of the 41st Regiment: Lady Edgar, p. 256.

CHAPTER IV

PUSH ON THE YORK VOLUNTEERS



HIS is not the attempt to re-tell the battle of Queenston Heights, which has often been written with enthusiasm, yea and even with eloquence and occasionally with accuracy. It is merely to tell why as his last order Brock saw fit to push on the York Volunteers.

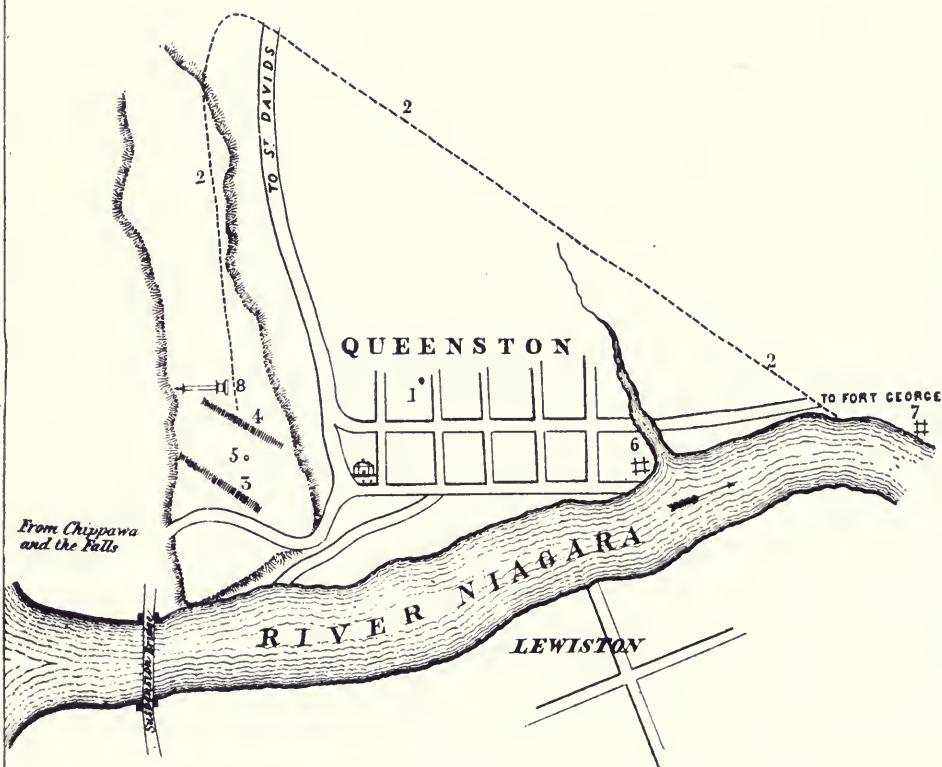
Well on the morning of October 13th, 1812, a miniature British army was defending a frontier of some thirty-six miles from Fort Erie to Niagara-on-the-Lake, its commander, General Isaac Brock, being obliged by his instructions from Sir George Prevost to adopt purely *defensive* measures. In a letter of September 18th, Brock had written his brother Savery: "You will hear of some decided action in the course of a fortnight or in all probability we shall return to a state of tranquility. *I say decisive because if I should be beaten the province is inevitably gone; and should I be victorious, I do not imagine the gentry from the other side will care to return to the charge.*"

He lay in some force at Fort George, which he had equipped to silence the American Fort Niagara, expecting that the movement of invasion would be around his left flank, while Fort Niagara would effect a diversion with its guns.

The seven miles of river from Fort George to Queenston he had picketed with what history has dignified as batteries. Thus at the Heights about half-way down the hill was the Redan Battery (armed with an eighteen pounder) with Capt. Williams' flank company of the Green Tigers (the 49th Regiment). In the village of Queenston was the other flank company under Major Dennis, along with Chisholm and Hatt's Militia Companies and a brass six pounder and two three pounders handled by a small detachment of artillery. Of the Yorks, Heward's Company, under Lieut. Robinson and Cameron's Company were stationed at Brown's Point two miles below Queenston. At night Robinson acted as an extra guard to the Battery at Vrooman's Point nearer Queenston and returned in the morning to the command of his senior, Capt. Cameron, at Brown's Point.

General Van Rensselaer did not attack Fort George, probably for the reason that he felt he was expected there. But, merely demonstrating in that quarter, he secretly concentrated at Fort Gray opposite Queenston and proceeded to drive a wedge through the centre of the thinly held line of British. His boats were received on the Canadian shore with a vigour that surprised them; some being sunk and those who landed getting it hot and dry from musket and bayonet; the survivors being sent under escort to Fort George. The guns in Fort Gray and the Redan on Queenston kept up a furious cannonade that sent the news down the River to Cameron and Brock.

PLAN OF THE BATTLE OF QUEENSTON.



1. Spot where Brock fell [Road by which the reinforcements from 2. Fort George gained the Heights in the afternoon]	5. Site of first monument 6. Old Fort 7. Vromont's Battery 8. Brock's monument
3. American line as drawn up in afternoon 4. British line do. do	

Reproduced from an old account of the Battle

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Capt. Cameron was not a professional soldier and was not instructed for this emergency. But with a correct instinct he decided to march to the sound of the guns and put his two companies of York Volunteers upon the road towards Queenston. On their way a single horseman overtook and passed them at a gallop, waving his hand to them and urging them as Robinson writes: "to follow with expedition." This was Isaac Brock on his way to his last battle. Soon after, that darling of Canadian soldiery, Col. Macdonell galloped by, also to meet his fate; and with him rode Capt. Glegg, Brock's other aide-de-camp.

It is a matter of history, fittingly commemorated by the tall monument that towers above the heights he strove to regain,¹ that Brock met his end as he had won his victories by attempting the desperate to ward off the seemingly inevitable. Nor was the attempt in vain; for the fury of the contest and the boat loads of wounded returning to the American shore had that moral effect on the adversary, which decided the victory of the afternoon.²

Twice Brock strove to gain the heights with every soldier he could spare from Queenston and twice he failed. But the words, "Push on the York Volunteers,"³ whether spoken by him just before or after he was struck were not heroics nor melodrama but a plain military order to throw into the issue his one available reserve, namely, the two companies under Capt. Cameron which following the trail of their general were panting up the road to Queenston.

Col. Macdonell rode to his death on the left flank of the York Volunteers and when he fell mortally wounded Capt. Cameron carried him off amid a shower of musketry. The shattered remains of these much tried pickets were rallied about a mile below the heights and marching through the fields back of Queenston joined themselves to the centre of Sheaffe's advancing column. Nor did the gruelling punishment of the morning prevent their earning their place in that famous dispatch of General Sheaffe, in which he says:

"Lieut-Cols. Butler and Clark of the militia; and Capts. Hatt, Durand, Rowe, Applegarth, James Crooks, Cooper, Robert Hamilton, McEwen, *Duncan Cameron*, and Lieuts. Richardsons⁴ and Thomas Butler, commanding flank companies of the Lincoln and York militia *led their men into action with great spirit.*"⁵

The great spirit with which that day they led on their men and General Sheaffe led his, was that of Isaac Brock. We shall see that this spirit evaporated from some of the generals if not from their juniors, and that soldiers who under Brock's influence were intrepid, like Sheaffe and Proctor, became soon afterwards vacillating, disheartened and timorous.

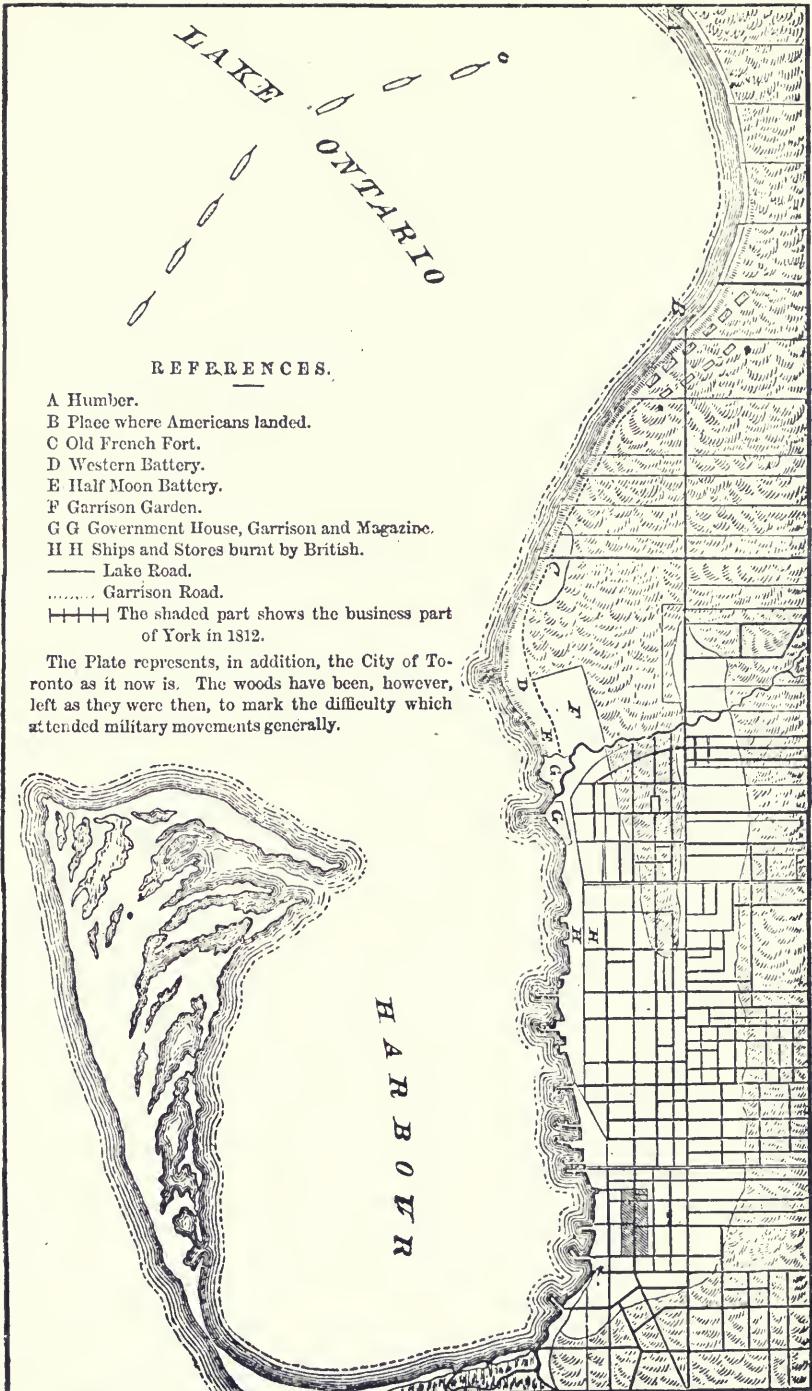
1. The Redan had been depleted of all but eight gunners in order to reinforce Queenston. Captain Wool, of the United States Army having taken his boats farther up the River, found a narrow unguarded path to the heights; which had the ultimate victory rested with the Americans would now be as famous as the celebrated path from Wolfe's Cove. This latter path must have been an achievement for Wolfe to find as no two citizens of Quebec ever show it to visitors in the same place.

2. The reinforcements that Van Rensselaer was ready to throw over to secure his partial victory developed "constitutional" doubts about leaving American soil and remained there.

3. Some authorities insert the words, "brave." Not necessary to any that rowed in the same boat with Brock.

4. This was of course Selby's Company. Both Capts. Heward and Selby came over to the Niagara frontier with Cameron, but appear to have been absent on leave the day when the blow was struck. This is not surprising as there had been a long tedious wait previous to the attack. Peter Robinson's company was in garrison at Mackinac.

5. Printed in "Documentary History of the Campaign upon the Niagara Frontier," Part IV, p. 72.



*From an Old Plan of Toronto
The References are as of 1846. Note the Island was at that date a Peninsula*

CHAPTER V

HOW GENERAL SHEAFFE PUT THE QUIETUS ON THE YORKS



THE trouble was that under the circumstances York was indefensible and that General Sheaffe allowed the militia and some regulars to be involved in a defense, which was meaningless. For it is meaningless to defend a place that, after taking, the enemy could not hold if it would and would not if it could.

A good description of what York was and how it was fortified is to be found in Coffin's "Chronicle of the War."¹

"In April 1813, the town was a scattered collection of low-roofed villas, embowered in apple orchards. An old French Fort or earthwork constructed to resist the Indians, stood on the shore of the lake about a mile from the inhabited part of the Bay. Two embrasured field works, dignified by the name of batteries, covered the entry to the harbour. These works were armed with three old French twenty-four pound guns, captured in 1760; the trunions had been knocked off at the time, but, for the nonce, they had been exhumed from the sand and clamped down upon pine logs, extemporised as carriages. The town was entirely open in the rear and on the flanks."

Well on the 25th of April, 1813, Commodore Chauncey, having for the time the command of the lake, sailed from Sackett's Harbour for York with a fleet of some fifteen sail, having on board Generals Dearborn and Pike and a force variously estimated by historians at from sixteen hundred to five thousand troops.²

Videttes had been long before posted in constant watch on Scarborough Heights with orders to fire alarm guns and on sight of a hostile fleet to ride into town. The alarm came late on the evening of April 26th.

Now according to Coffin, who was a relative of Sir Roger Sheaffe, "Sheaffe's first duty as a soldier and as a general looking to the defence of his military command was to abandon a place never intended to have been defended and to preserve his force for the protection of the country. The capture of this detachment at this time would have been an irretrievable loss and in its effects, fatal to the province."

It was this duty of abandonment, which Sir Roger Sheaffe performed in a fashion that endangered his regulars, disqualified the militia for the rest of the campaign, caused the burning of the parliament buildings and ruined Sheaffe's own reputation as a soldier. Unless he purposed to match brown-bess muskets against the guns of a fleet³—he must have known he could not prevent a landing

1. p. 98.

2. Historians vary like real estate experts on an arbitration. Perhaps a fair estimate would be two thousand five hundred, including the crews. See Auchinleck, p. 151.

3. Capt. McNeil and two companies of the 8th were practically wiped out by the broadsides from the fleet.

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and the capture of the ridiculous fortifications. But as it was he frittered away what fighting chance there was by allowing his force to be engaged and beaten in detail. First, Major Givens with about forty Indians and a few inhabitants of the town not enrolled for military duty, then about sixty Glengarry Fencibles, then some two hundred and twenty militia, and fifty of the Newfoundland Regiment, then two companies of the 8th Regiment (about two hundred strong)—these in succession were dribbled in to withstand a landing force upwards of one thousand strong. Meanwhile General Shaw,¹ with forty men and a six pounder held the line of Dundas Street and never got into action.

The blowing up of a magazine² killed General Pike and some two hundred Americans along with some of the defenders. Having set fire to a ship that was on the stocks, General Sheaffe retreated with the remains of his force to Kingston.

The bitter part of it was that having been permitted by Sheaffe to throw themselves into the contest with enthusiasm,³ the militia were allowed to save their homes by surrendering the town to an enemy exasperated by their stiff resistance and by the death of Pike and the destruction of stores. As Sheaffe puts it, "Lieut.-Col. Chewett and Major Allan of the militia were instructed to treat with the American commanders for terms." The negotiations were conducted largely by John Strachan (sometime Bishop of Toronto) assisted by Lieut. John Beverley Robinson, acting Attorney-General.

A curious statement appears in Auchinleck's "History of the War,"⁴ as follows: "The defence of the town being no longer practicable, a surrender necessarily followed by which it was stipulated that the militia and others attached to the British military and naval service *who had been captured* should be paroled; that private property of every kind should be respected and that all public stores should be given up to the captors. We have italicised the words, '*who had been captured*,' as the Americans got possession of the militia rolls and included amongst the list of prisoners on parole many who had never laid down their arms and whom it was never contemplated to include in the list."

This statement is borne out by the fact that the list printed in the histories⁵ includes at least one name that does not appear in the original orderly room copy of the terms of capitulation.⁶ And this name is that of our famous fighting lieutenant of Selby's Company, Reuben Richardson lately hero of Detroit and Queenston Heights, and now in cold blood surrendered by insertion.

Of the cavalier way in which General Dearborn treated his conquest and his prisoners, and how Dr. Strachan bullied the Americans into observing the terms of capitulation (after they had burned the public buildings) we need say no more than that the reverend doctor and future prelate for clear headed intrepidity carries off the chief honours on the British side.

1. Ancestor of Lt.-Col. Geo. A. Shaw, sometime O.C. 10th Royals.

2. The explosion just at this moment is now generally believed to have been accidental; but was a matter of bitter controversy at the time.

3. Among the killed was Maclean, Clerk of the House of Assembly.

4. p. 153.

5. e.g. in Auchinleck himself at p. 154.

6. Printed in fac simile in Robertson's "Landmarks of Toronto," Vol. 2, p. 808.

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Decidedly it would have been better if General Sheaffe had on sight of the American fleet burned his stores, carried off all his troops, including the York Volunteers, and left Dr. Strachan to surrender the town without a futile contest. But being a personally brave and mentally inconclusive man, Sheaffe could on this occasion neither fight nor refrain from fighting but salved his conscience with a resistance the utility of which does not appear. For the enemy having won a complete victory and captured York on April 27th, 1813, evacuated York on May 2nd, 1813, which in legal parlance constitutes—Four clear days.



Photos by Kennedy

Surgeon Lieut.-Col. R. M. HILLARY

*Major A. ELLIOTT,
Musketry Instructor.*

*Hon. Major A. GILLIES
Quartermaster*

*Hon. Major J. E. KNOX
Paymaster*

CHAPTER VI

THE INGREDIENTS OF SEDITION

JOOLLOWING the War of 1812-14 a political process was resumed and accelerated, which had started under the regime of Hon. Peter Russell, President and Administrator of the Province after the withdrawal of Lieutenant-Governor Simcoe. This consisted in the formation of a patrician class, composed of officials, a number of whom together with their relatives, became large land-holders and proceeded to engross the government places and emoluments of the province. This was not unaccompanied by some corruption and peculation in office and by abuses inherent to an aristocratic system, such as the reservation of one seventh of all public lands to form the foundation for a state church. One very irritating grievance that bore heavily on the actual settler, was that a large percentage of the land being thus held by the church or by land-grabbers and unoccupied by bona fide residents and no work being done on the contiguous allowances for roads, the public highways were in a deplorable condition.

The natural result of these actual grievances and of this exclusiveness of political patronage was a series of agitations bitterly conducted and ferociously resisted. A succession of agitators, Gourlay, Collins and finally William Lyon Mackenzie kept the public mind in a turmoil by writings and public meetings. What in the journalism of those days was apparently regarded by its authors as calm and legitimate criticism would now be reckoned as gross personal insult. One response of the office-holding class to these attacks was by the sweeping use of the machinery of the courts in prosecutions for seditious libel. And whether it was an attorney-general or chief justice thundering in the court or merely a Scotch reformer and a North of Ireland upholder of the administration arguing with stakes that ought to have been left in place to keep the wood from falling off the sleigh—the proceedings were wholehearted and free from any pretence of toleration and self-restraint. The Tories-in-office had a number of hard names, which they freely applied to their enemies the Radical agitators. But the agitators cleverly responded with one fixed term of opprobrium and summed up all their charges of nepotism and tyranny in the words, “Family Compact.”

Now the militia of Canada, embracing all the able-bodied male population, was of course neither all for nor all against the Family Compact. But it happened that certain able and courageous men, whom we have had occasion to mention in previous chapters were recognized members of the ruling caste. Thus Dr. Strachan and John Beverley Robinson were felt by both parties to be the dominant brains of the compact; while there were many ardent spirits among those who had seen service in 1812, who were heartily in accord with upholding aristocratic

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traditions, and who powerfully detested any democratic innovations. Thus when on June 8th, 1826, a mob of young gentlemen of official extraction threw William Lyon Mackenzie's type into the Bay,—and thereby unintentionally prolonged his political career,—it was deposed to that two citizens mentioned in previous chapters as Major and Captain, but now became Colonel Allan and Colonel Heward stood complacently watching that unconventional method of answering an editor.

In fact it appears to have been the policy of the Family Compact both to secure the veteran officers of 1812 by public offices and to keep the higher ranks in the militia for members of its circle. Thus in a pleasantly personal *black list* published by Mackenzie in June, 1828, just on the eve of a general election, with the title:—

“No. 6. Places of Profit, Honour and Emolument held by some of the members of the present or last House of Assembly or by candidates for the Legislature,” we find items like these:—

“John B. Robinson, Attorney-General; *Colonel of Militia*; King’s College Counsellor; Welland Canal Director; Hospital Trustee; Allegiance Commissioner, School Trustee.”

“D. Cameron, J.P.; *Major of Militia*.”

“Arch. McLean, Clerk of the Peace; Registrar of Stormont and Dundas; Member Board of Education; J.P.; *Colonel of Militia*.”

The total list comprises Colonels and Lieutenant-Colonels, 19; Majors, 9; Captains, 8; and one Lieutenant. Whence we may infer that up to 1828, at any rate, the Family Compact had with premeditated design set its strong fingers on the whole militia organization.

One thing, however, had not been foreseen, namely, that a paper organization without weapons or training, is not suited for emergency work. Veterans who still felt within their veins the hot blood of Queenston or Lundy’s Lane, did not perhaps realize that during a quarter of a century of peace there had rusted out both the muskets of 1812 and the skill to use them. And so fell out that curious episode of 1837.

CHAPTER VII

THE FOUR THOUSAND MUSKETS AT THE CITY HALL



HE troubles known to history as the Mackenzie Rebellion are really divisible into two distinct periods. First, the rebellion itself before it became an international affair; and secondly, the War of Filibusters that began with the burning of the Caroline on December 29th, 1837.

The success or failure of Mackenzie's attempt to overthrow the government of Sir Francis Head did not depend on any preponderance of loyalty or disaffection, but on something very material and confined in a very small space—namely on the four thousand stand of arms lying in their unbroken packages at the City Hall in Toronto. Let us see why.

Of all the governors who by the blunder of a statesman (or the mistake of a messenger)¹ have vexed Britain's over-seas dominions, Sir Francis Bond Head was by the quality and exercise of his undoubted talents the best fitted to lose a British Colony.

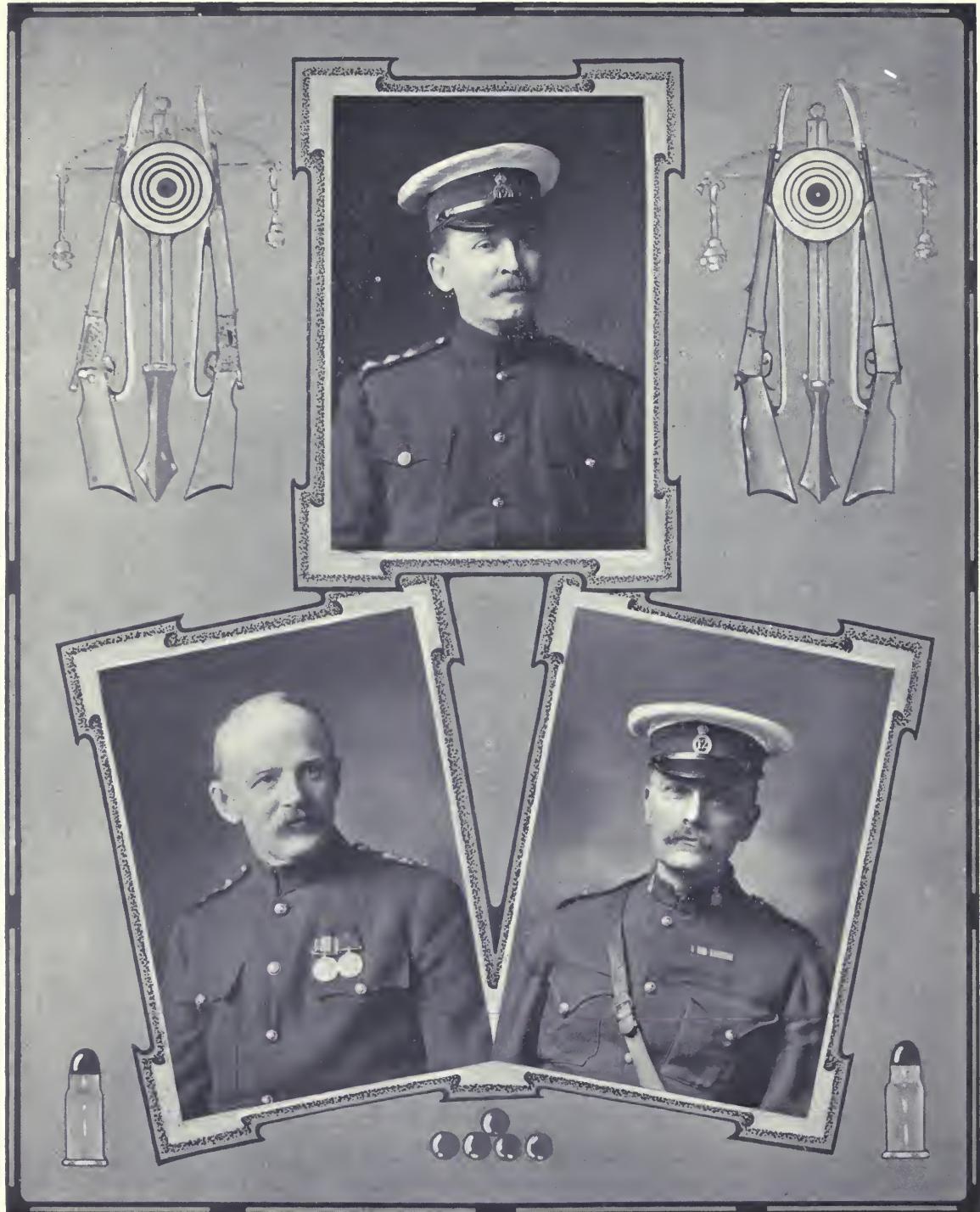
While exasperating the Reformers to the verge of rebellion, he was scarcely less irritating to the upholders of the Family Compact, who found him resentful of their advice and determined to pull the roof down over his own and their heads. The reform agitation had up till August 15th, 1837, been a spirited, but not overtly unlawful propaganda by public meetings and white-hot publications. About this date some fifty Orangemen with clubs adjourned one of Mackenzie's meetings. The answer to this line of argument took the form of an escort of one hundred horsemen, who accompanied the agitator to his Vaughan meeting.

The project launched by Mackenzie in July "for uniting, organizing and registering the Reformers of Upper Canada as a political union," began as he foresaw to take a military direction. The various branches or societies, which he had instituted, began to take an unwonted interest in rifle matches and turkey shoots and to collect pike-heads, doubtless for their symbolic value.

These matters were duly reported to Sir Francis Head, who secure in his sense of popularity,² not only refused to take any precautions to meet an outbreak, but in spite of the most alarming information sent every regular soldier out of the province to help against Papineau in Quebec. The garrison having disappeared, the insurgents had two chances to get the four thousand muskets upon whose possession depended the fate of an appeal to arms. Mackenzie, while disclaiming

1. It was more than suspected that the appointment of Sir Francis Head was due to a mistake in addressing or delivering the papers to the wrong Head.

2. He had beaten the Reformers in 1836 on one of those "Old Flag" campaigns, which are one of the outstanding phenomena of Upper Canadian politics, occurring as they do every eighteen or twenty years. If there is any credit in inventing such a political device, then credit must be given to Sir Francis Head.



Photos by Kennedy

*Capt. W. H. TAYLOR,
Commanding B Company*

*Capt. W. B. HAMILTON,
Commanding A Company*

*Capt. W. G. FOWLER,
Commanding C Company*

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any military capacity knew the general scarcity of fire arms,¹ and proceeded in his characteristic way to improve his first chance of getting that superiority of fire which determines battles. His plan was "that we should instantly send for Dutcher's foundry-men and Armstrong's axe-makers, all of whom could have been depended on, and with them go promptly to the Government House, seize Sir Francis, carry him to the City Hall, a fortress in itself, seize the arms and ammunition there and the artillery, etc., in the old garrison; rouse our innumerable friends in town and country, proclaim a provisional government," etc., etc.

Viewing the matter in the light of what actually did happen, one is struck by the entire feasibility of the plan and by the utter imbecility displayed by Mackenzie in his method of execution. For instead of going himself with a few tried friends, and collecting Dutcher's and Armstrong's men, he propounded his *mauvœuvre* to a meeting of fourteen or fifteen of the most fluent and sub-heroic orators in his party; with the result that they talked it out until it joined the innumerable list of great deeds that might have been done.

Inevitably some one told Sir Francis Head and consistently with his character he would neither do anything himself, nor permit anyone else to do anything for the defence of his person, capital or province.²

About this time there was in Toronto a certain veteran soldier of 1812, Col. Fitzgibbon, who was making an unqualified nuisance of himself to the powers-that-be. He made repeated alarmist representations to Head and his Council of an impending rebellion and was loftily snubbed by the Governor, the Judges and the Attorney-General. Indeed the only man of official standing in Toronto that gave heed to his utterances appears to have been Hon. Wm. Allan, whom we have mentioned in his militia capacity in previous chapters. Despite his chilling lack of encouragement, Fitzgibbon got up a list of one hundred and twenty-six men (out of the twelve thousand inhabitants of the city) upon whose loyalty he could depend. Taking this list to Sir Francis he informed him that *with or without his permission* he intended to keep these men on duty so that on the ringing of the college bell they should assemble at the City Hall. When the matter was presented to him in this manner Sir Francis gave a grumbling assent. As a matter of history this little contingent was all that stood between Head and the successful issue of Mackenzie's second plan for the capture of the four thousand muskets.

This plan was one of those intricate combinations which can only succeed in the entire absence of any military precaution or capacity on the part of those who are to be overthrown. Mackenzie schemed to concentrate his followers from Dan to Beersheba at a point in York County, and march thence upon the city before the Government could collect its friends. The date fixed was Thursday, 7th December, 1837, and Montgomery's Tavern on Yonge Street was the rendezvous.

1. "Of the fifteen hundred men whose names had been returned on the insurrection rolls, only a very small proportion—perhaps not over one in five—had firearms of any description.—Lindsay's "Life of Mackenzie," Vol. II, p. 52.

2. In the *Emigrant* (published in 1846) Sir Francis gave as his reason for not doing anything, that he did not want to harass the militia by calling them out; sending them back, calling them out again, sending them back again and so on: "The militia of Canada are men, whose time cannot with impunity be trifled with." The sentiment is worth preserving, even if it cost Sir Francis nine years to think it out.

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Two unforeseen circumstances broke up the combination. The first was that Dr. Rolph, a brilliant orator and bad conspirator, got alarmed at the state of unrest in Toronto, and thinking the plan had been discovered changed the date to the 4th December. This had the result that only a portion of the would-be-rebels got notice in time to join Mackenzie. The others either went out later with Dr. Duncombe in the west, and being practically unarmed, dispersed without battle; or hastening to the scene of trouble and hearing of the fiasco at Montgomery's Tavern became forthwith Her Majesty's most loyal militia.

The other circumstance was that the irrepressible Fitzgibbon despite the most explicit order of Sir Francis Head posted a forbidden and unthanked picket on Yonge Street.¹

On Monday, the 4th December, 1837, the Rebellion actually broke out and on Tuesday night the rebels, having been amused for several hours by flags of truce, moved down Yonge Street to take the city. Their advance guard struck the picket commanded by Sheriff W. B. Jarvis. The picket fired and ran in. The rebels also ran,—some eight hundred of them,—and retired to Montgomery's Tavern. To put it mildly the city was alarmed; even Sir Francis Head dressed himself and added to the confusion at the City Hall by issuing absurd orders. The arrival of Allan McNab from Hamilton with sixty men of Gore saved the situation by distracting the attention of Sir Francis from the confusion he was maintaining. The subsequent events—the advance of the now numerous volunteers with their muskets and cannon against the rebels of whom but two hundred had fire arms; the foregone conclusion at Montgomery's Tavern,—these are now ancient history.

Now where among all this confusion was the militia of whom as we have seen there were among the notables of the province such numerous colonels, lieutenant-colonels, majors and captains (not to mention one lieutenant). It seems, indeed, that these great men were not without the spirits of soldiers even if the bodies were invisible. For an eye-witness of the scene at the Market Place in Toronto on the morning of the 5th December, after the college bell had rung during the night, writes:—"I found a large number of persons serving out arms to others as fast as they possibly could. Among others, we saw the Lieutenant-Governor in his every-day suit with one double barrelled gun in his hand, another leaning against his breast and a brace of pistols in his leathern belt. Also Chief Justice Robinson, Judges Macaulay, Jones and McLean, the Attorney-General and Solicitor-General with their muskets, cartridges, boxes and bayonets, all standing in ranks as private soldiers under the command of Col. Fitzgibbon."

A spirited description of the militia man of 1837 is to be found in Lindsay's "Life of Mackenzie":

"The militia who went to the succor of the Government was not generally a more warlike body of men than the insurgents under Lount.² These were drawn

1. Looking at the events of those days through the mellowing atmosphere of history we can easily forgive the Family Compact and the Governor for their last-ditch opposition to "Responsible Government." But when we consider the pig-headed obtuseness of the man and his subsequent insincerity towards Fitzgibbon, not even the lapse of centuries will sooth the desire to personally kick Sir Francis Bond Head, Bart.

2. Lount was Mackenzie's best lieutenant. He, being a blacksmith, made the pike heads. He was hanged for his share in the rebellion.

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from the same class—the agriculturists—and were similarly armed and equipped. A description of a party—as given to me by an eye-witness—who came down from the North, would answer, with a very slight variation, for the militia of any other part of the province. A number of persons collected at Bradford, on the Monday or Tuesday, not one-third of whom had arms of any kind; and many of those who were armed had nothing better than pitchforks, rusty swords, dilapidated guns, and newly manufactured pikes, with an occasional bayonet on the end of a pole. These persons, without the least authority of law, set about a disarming process; depriving every one who refused to join them, or whom they chose to suspect of disloyalty, of his arms. Powder was taken from stores, wherever found, without the least ceremony, and without payment. On Thursday, a final march from Bradford for Toronto was commenced; the number of men being nearly five hundred, including one hundred and fifty Indians, with painted faces and savage looks. At Holland Landing some pikes, which probably belonged to Lount, were secured. In their triumphant march, these grotesque-looking militiamen made a prisoner of every man who did not give such an account of himself as they deemed satisfactory. Each prisoner, as he was taken, was tied to a rope; and when Toronto was reached a string of fifty prisoners all fastened together were marched in. Fearing an ambush, these recruits did not venture to march through the Oak Ridges in the night; and a smoke being seen led to the conclusion that Toronto was in flames. McLeod's tavern, beyond the Ridges, was taken possession of, as well as several other houses in the vicinity. In a neighbouring store, all kinds of provisions and clothing that could be obtained were unceremoniously seized. At the tavern there was a regular scramble for food; and cake-baking and bacon-frying were going on upon a wholesale scale. Next morning, several who had no arms, and others who were frightened, returned to their homes. Each man wore a pink ribbon on his arm to distinguish him from the rebels. Many joined from compulsion; and a larger number, including some who had been at Montgomery's, suddenly turned loyalists when they found the fortunes of the insurrection had become desperate. When they marched into Toronto, they were about as motley a collection as it would be possible to conceive.

“Such was the Canadian militia in 1837, at a time when Sir Francis Bond Head had sent all the regular troops out of the province.”



Photos by Kennedy

*Capt. B. H. BROWN,
Commanding F Company*

*Capt. S. E. CURRAN,
Commanding H Company*

*Capt. A. T. HUNTER,
Commanding G Company*

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CHAPTER VIII

THE WAR OF THE PATRIOTS ALIAS FILIBUSTERS

HE bickering on Yonge Street having turned against him, and himself having escaped after a series of adventures worthy of a Stuart prince, and Dr. Duncombe's insurrection having faded out, William Lyon Mackenzie took post on Navy Island in the Niagara River to prepare an invasion of Upper Canada by patriotic Canadians. This movement he confidently expected would be seconded by the mass of the population; and judging by the lists in his hands his confidence was based on good reason. Arms both small and large they had no difficulty in procuring by robbing the arsenals of the United States, which were being guarded with studious connivance.

Up to the end of December, 1837, Mackenzie had rallied to him about two hundred restless spirits most of whom were British subjects, but with an American "General"—one Van Rensselaer—who like many gallant soldiers of all ages exchanged intellect for intoxication and brains for brandy. This army was demonstrating feebly against the Canadian shore, where a loyalist camp under Col. Cameron and then under Allan Macnab was with gradually increasing forces eagerly awaiting a landing. On December 29th, provisions and military stores were being sent over from the American side to Navy Island by the steamer *Caroline*, which thus steamed into troubled waters to her own magnificent destruction.

Col. Macnab being a choleric man, not much versed in the niceties of international relations, permitted Capt. Drew of the Royal Navy to cut out the *Caroline*. Which, calling for volunteers or rather saying that "he wanted a few fellows with cutlasses who would follow him to the devil," Capt. Drew, R.N., proceeded to do. The, to him, trifling details that he took the steamer not at Navy Island, but at Schlosser on the American side and that he left behind the body of Amos Durfee with the head blown off, produced an international episode of volcanic proportions.

Mackenzie and his insurrection of British subjects were both immediately superseded by a filibuster movement, commanded by new and unheard-of generals, whose conflicting commissions proceeded out of the lodges of secret societies.¹ Invasions were planned to make descent upon various vulnerable places in Upper Canada. Some of the "generals" like Generals Sutherland and Theller, having conquered the country by proclamations, actually came and were duly sentenced when captured.² Others like Handy, of Illinois, merely organized pompous confu-

1. Hunters' Lodges they were called.

2. Also they broke jail and escaped.

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sion. Still others like General Bierce, and Admiral Bill Johnson, stood back in safety after sending brave men to their death.¹

The Americanizing of the war produced a sudden and decisive effect on the people of Upper Canada. So long as it was merely a case of William Lyon MacKenzie there was a good deal of something less loyal to the administration than indifference. Many a veteran of 1812² and his sons would gladly have struck a pike through the Family Compact if they could have avoided tearing the old flag. But the events that began when the *Caroline*, splendidly blazing, went over the Horse Shoe Fall, closed up the ranks of Canadians and the people seemed to rise as one man.

From a return of commissions issued from March, 1838, to March, 1839, we find the officers of two East York and two West York Regiments, and no less than nine North York Regiments. Among these officers we are struck by a persistence of names that occur in the rolls of 1812. Duncan Cameron was colonel of the 1st North York; and Heward, Cawthra, Richardson, Playter, Denison, Shaw, Selby, Jarvis, are among the commissioned in these suddenly organized invasion-expectant legions.³

A return of the 4th North Yorks, commanded by Col. C. C. Small, of Toronto, and mustering at Richmond Hill, on June 4th, 1838,⁴ shows how plentiful and willing men were and how woefully lacking were arms. Of a total of 725 men, 701 were present, and only 5 absent without leave. Of arms and accoutrements, the regiment possessed thirty-one English muskets and five hundred rounds of ammunition.

The same return of commissions in March, 1839, gives also the lists of officers of the forces called out on the first outbreak of the Rebellion of 1837. Among these were the Queen's Own, whose name still sounds familiar in Toronto, and the Queen's Rangers, a portion of whose designation has been continued in the present regiment of York Rangers. The Lieut.-Col. and organizer of the Queen's Rangers was Samuel Peters Jarvis, who named it after Simcoe's famous corps in which his father, "the Secretary," had held a commission. No native Canadian ever saw more of fighting in his own land than did Col. Jarvis; and when we consider that he was at Detroit, Queenston Heights, Stoney Creek and Lundy's Lane; that he fought a duel according to the code in Toronto,⁵ that he commanded the right wing at Montgomery's Tavern and was present to admire the pyre-like glory of the *Caroline* as she took the plunge, we feel that he had an unerring instinct for war, and while by profession a lawyer was by preference a soldier and a good one.

1. They induced Van Shultz to attempt to take Prescott. He was forced to surrender at the "Windmill" and executed.

2. Matthews, one of the executed rebels, fought valiantly against the invaders in 1812.

3. One of these old time names of 1812-37 has gone astray and therefore appropriately joined the Corps of Guides in the person of Lieut.-Col. Van Nostrand.

4. "Landmarks of Toronto," 5th Series, p. 11.

5. In the vicinity of what is now Grosvenor Street.

CHAPTER IX

ANOTHER QUARTER CENTURY OF RUST

HE "Patriot" demonstrations of 1838 having subsided, interest in the militia rapidly evaporated and what little skill as men-at-arms the citizens had acquired was soon forgotten. The annual musters of the forces more and more took that burlesque character which is fatal to discipline. For a good soldier has even more need to subdue his sense of humor in time of peace than he has in time of war to control his sense of fear.

The rigorous drill and fine old military decorum of these annual musters (when attended at all) may be gathered from the description by an astonished participant in one, which was held in 1845.¹

"At that date, and for some years before, there had been an annual muster on old King George's birthday, of the young men of our rural parts not yet enrolled for military purposes. I was then resident in the county of Haldimand, Niagara district, and received a notification that I must proceed to the village of Dunnville and attend the annual muster on the 4th of June. I proceeded there in due course, reported at a named tavern, and 'fell in' with some thirty other young fellows in front of it. The specified hour having arrived, we lined up in fair order, and our names were called with military vigor. Then came a veteran carrying a tin pail with something in it, and its bearer stopped in front of every man in turn. A tin dipper descended into the pail and ascended to the welcoming hand of each visitor as he was reached. A gurgle and a smack of the lips, and another nail had been driven into the system of the soldier. Capt. Farr, commanding, then appeared in front of the contingent specially under his orders, and called us back to the 'Attention' which we had bestowed elsewhere. We were 'two deep,' if not a little more, and received the order to 'wheel' to the 'left.' Explanation was necessary before we could take up the unexpected movement, but after its repetition we were almost equal to the performance of the double shuffle dignified by the name of a 'quick march.' Then we reached a turn to our left. Dispirited by the response to the previous command to 'wheel,' the gallant captain—called 'Cap,' for short, by his corps.—politely informed his command that it was useless to tell them what the drill book said, but they must 'haw' or 'gee' as they were directed, so first we 'geed,' and then we 'hawed,' and got there just the same.

"There were several squads on the vacant lot to which we had been marched, mostly big lads and young men, who were lying on the ground good-naturedly awaiting orders. One special squad, in uniforms, and really looking soldier-like,

1. See "Sixty Years in Upper Canada," by Charles Clarke, late Clerk of the Legislature. Col. Clarke was C.O. of the 30th for more than twenty years. Being accustomed to strict drill and discipline in an academy in England, the shock of this first militia experience in Canada nearly shattered his reason.



Photos by Kennedy

Lieut. H. BRANN,
D Company
Lieut. J. L. WILLIAMSON,
A Company

Lieut. WM. BAILLIE

Lieut. RAYMOND WALKER,
C Company

Lieut. J. H. PROCTOR,
B Company

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were drilling with a combination of snap and vigor. Their backs were turned towards us, but on their countermarching we discovered that our models were all negroes, a company raised during the recent Rebellion and said to have been very efficient in making corduroy roads. They received special notice from the colonel, who wore regimentals, too, and sat his steed—a mare as if not afraid of it. In passing up and down the line now formed he gave us ample opportunity, not only to admire his horsemanship, but to form an opinion of the good points of a lively colt running at the heels of its mother. After his little speech of commendation and recommendation, reports were made by the company officers, and we involuntarily broke into groups. Then the fun commenced. Wrestling, jumping, ‘stumping for a horse race,’ and so forth, soon broke up all semblance of order, and one irreverent and evidently licensed good fellow tiptoed to the rear of the ‘Cap,’ and suddenly snatched and drew from its scabbard the slightly rusted sword which had been carried through a rebellion now apparently forgotten. A loud haw-haw from the boys, and the advice from one of them to our commanding officer to put up his ‘old cheese-knife,’ and we marched back to the tavern to receive another drink, after which the military heroes were dismissed, and more fun and frolic followed.”

It is not to be supposed, however, as the years went by that all annual musters of the militia were as successful even in the picnic sense, as the one just described. Lieut.-Col. Geo. A. Shaw, ex-commanding officer of the 10th has a curious recollection of one attended by him as a newly gazetted ensign. It was in Toronto itself, where surely, if anywhere, the flame is never allowed to die on the altar of Mars. Arriving with the zeal that becomes a young officer at the appointed hour and the appointed place he could not find any militia. He found, however, a negro asleep under a tree. Summoning his best military crispness of manner he tapped the Sambo with his boot and said, “My man, where are the militia?”

“Ise de militia, sah.”

“You’re the militia! What do you mean?”

“Sure, Ise de militia and de oder militia is up de tree.”

Looking up the tree Shaw discovered the other militia in the form of a youth picking nuts. Presently the captain came in his full uniform of a captain of the Sedentary Militia of Canada, and the parade was complete.

Things drifted along, nevertheless, becoming of course worse rather than better as the weapons became older and rustier and the memory of any active service became dimmer. The Crimean War, however, awakened the attention of England to many things in connection with her army, the blaze of whose valor only served to light up the hideous weakness of its organization. Among other things the British authorities, while rummaging in 1854 for effective troops, recollect that some thirty-three hundred regulars were defending Canada, and that the Canadians, outside of a few voluntary companies (who drilled without pay and bought their own uniforms), were not interfering with the duties of these regulars. Accordingly England, with the same sad-eyed persistence with which of late years she has reminded Canada of her naval obligations, kept bringing the matter of defence to the attention of the Canadian authorities.

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The result was a new militia law in 1855, which made provision for active militia corps which were to provide their own uniforms and clothing and up to the number of 5,000 to receive a very limited number of days pay per annum. Additional corps were also authorized who were to drill without pay. These two classes kept up the active militia spirit under difficulties; and owing to the indifference of the public appeared rather to be on the decrease than on the increase. For while in 1856 they numbered 4,999 and rose in 1857 to 5,288, yet in 1858 they sank to 4,895.¹

However, on November 8th, 1861, the U.S. Steamship *San Jacinto* fired a shot across the bow of the British mail steamer *Trent*, and took from her two Southern gentlemen, Mason and Slidell. It required some diplomacy to set this matter right, and in the meantime so sensitive is the Canadian pulse in Imperial matters that our active militia had risen to 12,000 by the end of 1861, and by 1863 to 25,000.

During this period of growth we find certain companies gazetted which form a link between the present regiment of York Rangers and its predecessors in the York Militia of older days.

Thus on September 4th, 1862, was gazetted, the Scarborough Rifle Company,
Capt. W. H. Norris, Lieut. J. R. Taber, Ensign Geo. Rush.

On December 11th, in the same year, the Aurora Infantry Company,
Capt. Seth Ashton, Lieut. W. B. Hutchison, Ensign C. Good.

On December 19th, The Lloydtown Infantry Company,
Capt. Ed. Bull, Lieut. Geo. Ramsay, Ensign Robert Hunter.

And on January 23rd, 1863, The King Infantry Company,
Capt. Geo. Lee Garden, Lieut. Isaac Dennis, Ensign Chas. Norman.

These companies, quite independent of one another, were part of the 5th Military District (comprising Ontario, York, Peel and Simcoe), and appear from a publication called "The Active or Volunteer Militia Force List of Canada," to have owed some sort of disciplinary obedience to one J. Stoughton Dennis, the Brigade-Major.

With some changes in personnel, for four years they continued their vigil,² turning (as the sentries used to turn) always outwards in one direction; and that direction the South. For from the South the enemy was to come.

1. "The Militia System of Canada," by Colonel Walker Powell in Castell Hopkin's Encyclopædia.

2. From an account, "Landmarks of Toronto," 5th series, p. 506 of a military review held by Gen. Lindsay in Toronto, on 8th October, 1863, and attended by the rural volunteer companies we get an accurate idea of the mustering strength of these companies. Note these items:

From King, one company of infantry, Capt. Garden, one officer and forty men.

From Aurora, one company of infantry, Capt. Peel, three officers and thirty men.

From Lloydtown, one company of infantry, Capt. Armstrong and twenty-five men.

From Scarboro, one company of rifles, Capt. Norris, four officers and forty-five men. From which it will be seen that the Flank Company of 1812, the Volunteer Company of the Sixties, and the "Rural" Militia Company of our own day are about the same thing.

CHAPTER X

THE WELDING OF THE BATTALIONS

HE troubles known as the Fenian Raids, divested of their feeble pretense of freeing Ireland, originated in the disbanding of the enormous armies of the Civil War. For just as the unlucky contestants in any series of sports will clamor for a "Consolation Race," so after any period of warfare there are ambitious and unsatisfied soldiers to whom peace appears in the garb of a robber of their opportunities for achieving fortune and fame. Louis Napoleon, having withdrawn from Mexico, there was only Canada to turn to. Accordingly, Canada was in for it.

Two causes contributed towards the prosperous organization of a series of raids into Canada. One was the immemorial dishonesty of American governments in the matter of filibustering movements; which before the authorities suppressed them must have been attempted, have failed and palpably be incapable of future success. The other cause was that treacherous torpidity in military matters which with the Canadian precedes a sudden and venomous activity, a torpidity which induced the incursions of 1812, 1838 and 1866.

However obviously dense the American Government could be towards the organizing, enrolling and drilling of masses of armed Fenians in their cities the Canadian authorities were not able to achieve such heights of philosophy. Repeated alarms were met with sporadic preparations to receive with the appropriate salute of ball cartridge an enemy who might land at any time or place. Thus for four weary months from December 30th, 1864, two service companies of the Queen's Own patrolled the Niagara Frontier.¹

Again in November, 1865, the city regiments picketed the drill shed in Toronto, and companies were sent to Sarnia where ultimately a provisional battalion was formed.

In March, 1866, the militia were called out and among those who left for the front to be stationed at Port Colborne, were six companies from the 5th Military District, of which two companies were the Aurora Infantry Company and the Scarboro Rifles.

Finally it became evident a few days previously to May 31st, that some movement was in progress in the American towns and cities along the Niagara frontier, and by the night of the 31st it was manifest that a mobilization was in progress for an immediate descent on the Canadian shore. The actual landing took place at 3.30 the following day, but late in the night of the 31st the call to

1. Other units of militia were also kept drilling about the same time, e.g. we find a note in the Militia List of 1865 that our Scarboro company drilled at Niagara with the Second or Central Administrative Battalion. The ostensible reason for keeping up this "Watch on the Rhine" was to prevent raids into the United States. If that was the real reason, it was a case of wasted courtesy.



Photos by Kennedy

Lieut. F. G. L. DARLINGTON,
H Company

Lieut. A. G. A. FLETCHER,
E Company

Lieut. F. M. BROWN,
F Company

Lieut. B. J. DAYTON,
Sig. Officer

Lieut. W. G. PINK,
F Company

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arms was telegraphed from Ottawa, and within an hour the sound of bugles and alarm bells was heard echoing and ringing in nearly every town and village in the country.¹

The response of the militia to the bugles and the orders calling them out was, as always is the case with the Canadian militia, instantaneous. The impression one gets from reading of how few hours were required to get the men together is that they were already straining at the leash. The news of their required mobilization arriving in the evening, the Queen's Own were at their armory at 4.30 in the morning and embarked at 7 a.m. for Port Dalhousie. As fast as transportation was provided the other forces were carried to the scene of hostilities. The Northern Railway arrived at Toronto at 10.40 a.m. on June 2nd, bearing among others the Aurora Infantry Company, the King Infantry Company, under Capt. Garden and the Scarboro Rifles, and by the afternoon train came the Lloydtown Company along with the Collingwood Rifles.²

When we, at this distance of time, contemplate the strategy of General Napier, who commanded in Canada West and of Col. Peacocke, who was entrusted with the command of the troops in the Niagara Peninsula, we feel that it is a tribute to the inherent loyalty of the Canadians that they did not for all time lose faith in the soundness of British generalship. With the vaguest possible information as to the movements of the Fenians after their landing at Fort Erie, it did not occur to General Napier to mobilize any mounted troops until June 2nd, after the despatch of the Queen's Own and other foot soldiers to Port Colborne and St. Catharines. It is safe to say that if either Col. Peacocke or Lieut.-Col. Booker had with him on June 1st even a troop of cavalry and it had displayed some of the energy shown two days later by Geo. T. Denison,³ with his troop of Governor-General's Body Guard, the column under Booker would not have received the smubbing it got at Ridgeway and the Fenians would not have escaped from pursuit. To add to the difficulties of Peacocke the authorities had posted the Queen's Own, the 13th and the



Bugle and Flag
Presented by their Fellow Townsmen to the Aurora Infantry Company, on their return from the Niagara Frontier, June 1866

1. "Troublous Times in Canada," by Capt. John A. Macdonald, p. 33.

2. *Leader*, June 2nd, 1866.

3. Now Col. Denison, the well known police magistrate of Toronto and an author of international celebrity.

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York and Caledonia Companies under Booker at Port Colborne, which is a villainous distance from St. Catherines, whence Peacocke set out and also from Chippewa to which he pushed on. If it was the strategical intention to unite these columns, the utility of so widely separating them the day before is one of those mysteries that make the art of war so profound a study. At any rate Peacocke attempted to effect a junction with Booker at Stevensville. Whatever chance this most delicate of all operations,—the junction of widely separated columns within striking distance of the enemy,—might have had was destroyed by the slowness of Peacocke's own march and the erratic conduct of Capt. Akers (Peacocke's officer sent to advise Booker), and Lieut.-Col. Stoughton Dennis, who carried off some of the troops from Port Colborne to conduct an attack on the Fenians at Fort Erie. This attack on Fort Erie which was to cover these officers with glory earned them a smart beating and is just another illustration of that greatest of all nuisances among military officers, the half-baked tactician who, regardless of his superior's plans, attempts to carry off the "kudos" for himself.

The combat at Ridgeway has often been described. The man most vociferously abused at the time, Lieut.-Col. Booker, appears in reality both before and after the one mistake he made to have acted with good military sense and courageous coolness. In this mistake of forming a hollow square on the alarm of "cavalry" he was simply the victim of a formation in the drill book. And be it noted that the formation was until a year ago still there, lying ambushed in the sections relating to Savage Warfare; waiting for the day when some too literal minded British officer should form a hollow square in close formation against the wrong savages.

Ridgeway over and the Fenians having escaped, the various companies and battalions performed outpost duties at different places¹ for a period of about three weeks when they were relieved of duty and thanked in a general order of June 23rd, by the Commander-in-chief, who took occasion also to advise them to continue their drill and discipline as the danger of invasion was not past.

Among the numerous deficiencies of our militia system² the authorities proceeded to remedy two pressing defects. One was that the liability to be called out repeatedly on alarms was beginning to harass the militia. For the post-prandial patriot who waves the old flag in an ecstasy of Britannic zeal and then permanently fills his employee's position when he has gone to the front was more in evidence in 1866 than he would venture to be in these days.

The other defect was the lack of cohesion among the numerous independent companies whose officers and men had no conception of carrying out anything like a combined movement.

Both these defects could be met by forming a standing camp where the companies could be welded into battalions and at which by taking a week's tour of

1. The Aurora Company, for instance, was part of a provisional battalion stationed at Clifton and Suspension Bridge under Col. R. B. Denison.

2. For instance Booker's column lacked cavalry, artillery, cooking appliances, transport wagons, medical necessaries, and was scantly furnished with food and ammunition. Of late years the Militia Department has given great attention to the formation and equipment of all the auxiliary corps necessary to move and care for an army in the field. Sometimes we think it has forgotten that there is such a thing as infantry.

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duty in rotation each group of militia would get some military experience without being unsettled in their civil employments.

The ground selected for this camp was on the high level overlooking St. Catherines, the Great Western Railway and the Welland Canal to the westward of Thorold village. The first volunteer troops posted were the 10th from Toronto and the 7th from London. With them were a portion of the 16th Regulars and of the Royal Artillery, also Major Denison and his troop of cavalry. They assembled on the 18th of August, and on the 26th the 10th and 7th were relieved by the Q.O.R. the 13th and the 22nd Oxford Rifles.

The turn of the companies in which we are more particularly interested came in the middle of September. That they made a good impression on their way to the mill we learn by the following extract from a Toronto daily:

"Military: Five companies of infantry arrived in town by special train on the Northern Railway on Saturday, as follows: Bradford, Lieut. Wilson commanding; Aurora, Major Peel; Newmarket, Capt. Boulbee; King, Capt. Garden and Lloydtown,¹ Capt. Armstrong. The Scarboro Rifles under Capt. Taylor, got on the Grand Trunk train at Scarboro Station, and arrived about an hour earlier. They departed together with Brigade Major Dennis on the steamer *City of Toronto*, at noon for the camp at Thorold to relieve the volunteers now serving there. A more soldierly looking set of men could not well be got together. Col. Durie, Brigade Major Denison, Col. R. S. Denison and several other principal officers together with a large number of citizens were on the wharf to witness their departure."²

In the same issue of the paper appears this item:

"12th York Battalion Infantry: Headquarters at Aurora.³ To be Lieut.-Colonel—Capt. W. D. Jarvis from the 2nd Battalion Queen's Own Rifles, Toronto." The tour of duty being completed the battalion was relieved by the Brant and Haldimand Battalions and returned to Toronto under its first commanding officer whose pride was no doubt greatly enhanced by subsequently receiving the following letter:

"Sir. I have the honour to request you will make known to the officers and men of the 12th (York) Battalion my extreme gratification at the fine and soldier like appearance and demeanour of the Battalion on Monday 22nd instant, of which I shall have the pleasure of making a special report to H. E. the Commander-in-Chief.

"The proficiency of this young Battalion in Drill and the steadiness of the men is very creditable to you as commanding officer."

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your very obedient servant,

J. S. MACDONALD, Col. A.A.G.

L.T.-COL. JARVIS, Commanding 12th York, Newmarket.

1. Geo. A. Shaw, afterwards Lieut.-Col. of the 10th, was attached to the Lloydtown Company during this camp to give instruction.

2. *The Daily Leader*, September 17th, 1866.

3. The regiment appears in the list of 1867, with its headquarters at Newmarket, and in 1873, again at Aurora. The date of gazetting the battalion and its Lieut.-Col. is 14th September, 1866.

HISTORY OF THE 12TH REGIMENT, YORK RANGERS

CHAPTER XI

THE CONTINUITY OF YORK BATTALIONS



HIS new-old York Battalion as it settled down in the Militia List of 1867, was a nine company aggregation with the following officers:—

12th York Battalion of Infantry, Headquarters, Newmarket;
Lieut.-Col. W. D. Jarvis.

- No. 1 Company Scarboro:
Capt. Taber, Lieut. Stobo, Ensign John Huxtable.
- No. 2 Company Aurora:
Capt. Nathl. Pearson.
- No. 3 Company Lloydtown:¹
Capt. Armstrong, Lieut. W. T. Armstrong, Ensign John Thompson.
- No. 4 Company, King:
Capt. Garden, Lieut. Norman, Ensign L. N. Crosby.
- No. 5 Company, Newmarket:
Capt. A. Boulbee, Lieut. Chas. McFayden.
- No. 6 Company, Keswick:
Capt. Alfred Wyndham, Lieut. Wm. Boucher, Ensign J. R. Stevenson.
- No. 7 Company, Markham:
Capt. Thos. A. Milne, Lieut. Jas. Robinson, Ensign Saml. Carney.
- No. 8 Company, Sharon:
Capt. Wm. Selby, Lieut. John W. Selby, Ensign Jas. Wayling.
- No. 9 Company, Unionville:
Capt. Hugh P. Crosby, Lieut. Salem Eckhart, Ensign Wm. Esken,
Paymaster Joseph Cawthra.
Adjutant A. J. L. Peebles.
Quarter Master Wm. Trent.
Surgeon Jas. Bovell, M.D.

The persistence of certain names in the above list gives one the impression that our military authorities sought to weave into the newly assembled battalion all the old traditional threads of military service that led back to the days of '37 and 1812.

1. The Lloydtown Company as such disappeared by a roundabout process of amalgamation with the Aurora Company, the headquarters being moved to Aurora and Nathaniel Pearson being made captain, vice Armstrong, who retired with honorary rank of major. The Bradford Company which was with the 12th at Thorold is now E Company of the 36th Peel Regiment.

HISTORY OF THE 12TH REGIMENT, YORK RANGERS

Thus the name of Jarvis,¹ was reminiscent of every ancient fight in which any soldiers from York had ever participated. Accordingly it was appropriate that in selecting a first commanding officer the authorities should pitch upon the son of the Sheriff William Botsford Jarvis, against whose picket on Yonge Street, as we have seen, the flood tide of the Mackenzie Rebellion broke and receded.

Independently of his paternity and of his cousinship to Col. Samuel Peters Jarvis, William D. Jarvis, first lieutenant-colonel of the 12th, had earned his appointment by previous service. In December of 1864, he volunteered and was given a commission to complete the establishment of Capt. Gilmor's Company which was one of the two service companies of the Queen's Own, that were sent during that month to patrol the Niagara Frontier, ostensibly to prevent raids



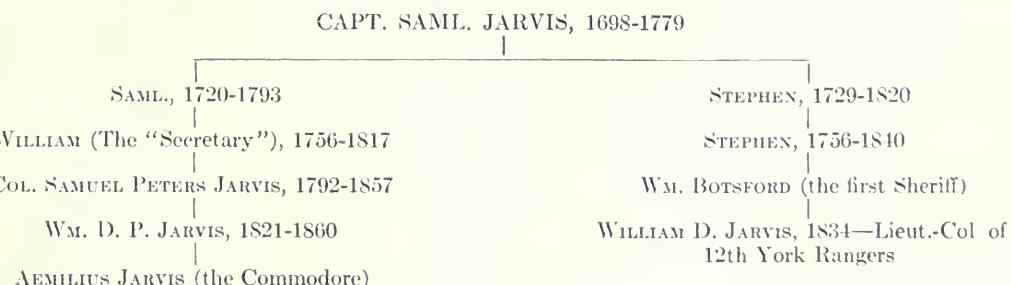
Photo by Kennedy

*Practice in Measuring and Judging Distance
On Niagara Common*

into the United States by Southern sympathizers. These service companies put in four dreary months at Niagara and in April, 1865, returned home.

Jarvis' next service was in November, 1865, when an alarm of intended Fenian attacks caused the authorities to place a picket of thirty men under his command to protect the Drill Shed in Toronto.

1. The prevalence of the Jarvis family when any form of strife was being conducted is one of the bewildering features of Upper Canadian History. The following genealogical tree may assist the student:



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This led to his becoming Capt. Jarvis by being put in command of the service company of the Queen's Own that was called out for the protection of the frontier and on November 20th stationed at Sarnia.

This service company returned from Sarnia, April 4th, leaving behind twenty-six men who had been transferred to a provisional battalion under Jarvis, who thus now became provisional lieutenant-colonel. His transfer to the newly organized 12th York Battalion only confirmed him in a rank and duties already exercised to the satisfaction of the authorities.

The Jarvis family having been taken, it would only have been in accord with the fitness of things to have at once added to the word "York" the name of "Rangers" which is reminiscent of another Jarvis battalion, the Queen's Rangers of Samuel Peters Jarvis which in its turn took its designation as an heirloom from the famous regiment of General Simcoe. This historic honor, however, was not accorded to the regiment until May 10th, 1872, when Militia General Orders announced "This Battalion will be designated in future '12th Battalion of Infantry or York Rangers' and it is hereby permitted to adopt and use the following motto: 'Celer et Audax.'"

Capt. Arthur Armstrong, of the Lloydtown Company was the son of Lieut.-Col. Arthur Armstrong, who had some exciting experiences in the Rebellion of 1837. On one occasion he was taken prisoner by the Rebels who endeavoured by threats to coerce him into joining their ranks. But baring his bosom he gave them to understand that his life was at their disposal if they wished to take it, but his loyalty to the Crown should never be questioned.¹ He gave valuable assistance to the Government during these troublous times and being authorized to raise a militia company did so within four days. When the headquarters of the Lloydtown company was removed to Aurora,² Capt. Armstrong resigned and was "permitted as a special case in consideration of his long service in the Active Militia to retire with the rank of Honorary Major."

The name of Capt. Nathaniel Pearson, who succeeded Armstrong in the command of the company on its removal to Aurora, appears rather to point to a peaceful than a martial lineage. For when the Quakers residing on Yonge Street, presented a characteristic address to Sir Francis Gore on September 30th, 1806, the address was signed by order of the Quaker meeting by "Nathaniel Pearson, clerk."

Capt. Thomas Selby, of the Flank Company of Detroit and Queenston fame and Capt. William Selby of the 6th North Yorks of 1838, were well represented by John W. Selby and William Selby of the Sharon Company. John W. Selby rose to become lieutenant-colonel of the battalion in 1875.

Capt. Crosby, of No. 9 Company (afterwards No. 8 when re-numbered in 1872) represents a family of which at least one member fought in the Yorks of 1812, namely James Crosby.

The first paymaster Joseph Cawthra represented a family with an honorable war record. "In 1812, Mr. John Cawthra,³ and his brother Jonathan were among

1. "History of York County," Vol. II, p. 379.

2. May 23rd, 1872.

3. Scadding, p. 483.

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the volunteers who offered themselves for the defence of the country. At Detroit, John assisted in conveying across the river in scows the heavy guns which were expected to be wanted in the attack on the Fort. On the slopes of Queenston, Jonathan had a hairbreadth escape. At the direction of his officer, he moved from the rear to the front of his company giving place to a comrade, who the following instant had a portion of his leg carried away by a shot from Fort Gray, on the opposite side of the river. Also at Queenston, John after personally cautioning Col. Maedonell, against rashly exposing himself, as he seemed to be doing, was called on a few minutes afterwards to aid in carrying that officer to the rear, mortally wounded.¹ In 1838, another of the family, William Cawthra, was gazetted a lieutenant in the 1st East York Regiment.

Space will not permit our minutely investigating also the rank and file, but the more we study the personnel of the first battalion officers the more clearly appears the chain of connection with the older organizations of the county.

1. Afterwards the first M.P.P. for Simcoe County after its separation from York.

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CHAPTER XII

KEEPING THEIR ARMOR BRIGHT

AFTER the expectancy and disappointment of 1866, the rural battalions settled down for a score of years to the practice of the plain routine work of camp-going regiments. Some excitement was caused it is true by the passing storm clouds of the Fenian and Red River Troubles of 1870. In connection with this latter the expedition of Sir Garnet Wolseley to the North West was in one respect a model for future expeditions, in that instead of throwing the brunt on single corps an effort was made to give



Photo by Kennedy

Group taken in rear of Tents
From left to right—Capt. CLARKE, Major KNOX, Major ELLIOTT, and
Sergt. SMITH, with the genial visitor seated.

a representation in the experience and hazard of a campaign to officers and men from various regiments.

Thus we note with effusive, if belated, gratitude that the 12th had a representative in its Adjutant Peebles, who thus became an ensign in the Ontario Battalion.¹

1. Samuel Peters Jarvis, the second, commanded this battalion. He rose high in the regular army.

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There were two of this family in the expedition, the ensign and his father who, under the designation of Control Officer, exercised the functions of a head quartermaster for both battalions and was exceedingly popular with the officers. This elder Peebles afterwards became police magistrate in Winnipeg. We dilate upon this tremendous appointment of Ensign Peebles, because outside of this and of the career of Capt. Vidal, who commanded the Yorkville Company for a while and then went into the Permanent Corps and rose to a high place, we are not aware of any officer of the 12th who ever got anything.

Meanwhile during all the seventies and halfway into the eighties the usual thing did not happen to the Militia of Canada. Their rifles,—of the converted Snider Gas Pipe Model,—might be a little obsolescent, but they were not rusted out. Their belts and knapsacks and ponderous rib-erasing cartridge pouches might not be the last word in equipment, but they were all present to be counted at the inspection. Thanks to the stability of organization that arose from composing the regiments of active companies and making them undergo periodical battalion and brigade training there has since Confederation¹ always been a respectable body of militia with arms, uniforms, officers, sergeants and some knowledge of the duties of military service.

The drill viewed with our more modern eyes may have been too highly complicated, and more attention given than wise to what General Wolfe used to call "the one-two" and to movements which are now recognized as niceties of ceremonial. Thus looking over our brigade and regimental orders of June, 1884, we find that all the corps immediately upon arrival at camp were required to mount their regimental guards; which they evidently did with great solemn observance of parole and countersign. Also we find that the wearing of the old corrosive curb-chain strap of the helmet under the chin where it could do the most harm was seemingly more important than musketry instruction.

But "'twas a wholesome rigour in the main" and even in those days the orders show that some latitude was allowed the rank and file. For do not the camp orders of that same year allow bathing in the lake; with the super-sage remark: "men going beyond their depth do so at their own risk."

And so along the years from 1866 to 1885, the 12th went its way, having had for its commanding officers in succession, Lieut.-Colonels Jarvis, Norris,² Selby, Garden, and then Lieut.-Col. Wyndham, who was to take the regiment into active service.

1. Or at any rate since 1868, when there was another of those Militia Acts.

2. Was Captain of Scarboro Company, Major and Lieut.-Col. of the 12th, a J.P. of twenty-two years standing in York County; an LL.D. of Oxford University. In 1866 was camped with the Scarboro Company at the Mount Eagle House near the Suspension Bridge. He died suddenly of apoplexy, while in Toronto on military service connected with the regiment, in 1878, and was buried with military honors.

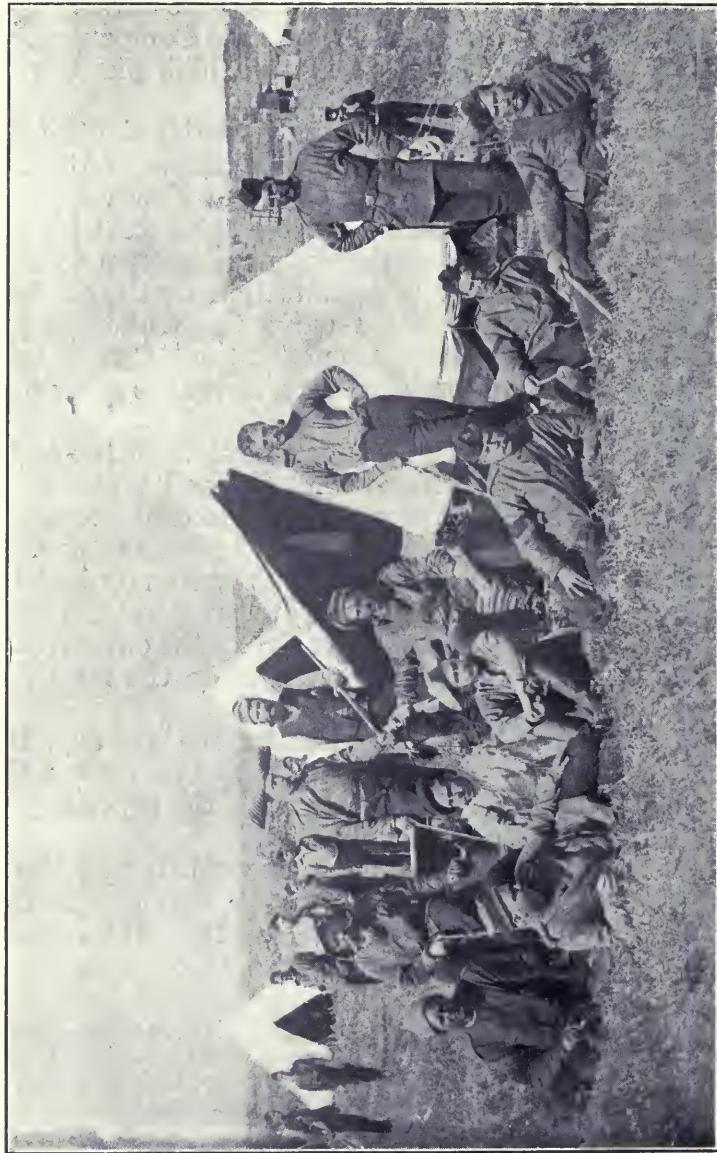


Photo by Kennedy
Officers and N.C.O.'s of No. 7 Company York and Simcoe Regiment
Taken at Humboldt, June, 1885

The Tent is Capt. SMITH'S.

Reading from left to right :

Front row—Col. Sergt. W. H. TAYLOR (now Capt. of Aurora Co'y.), Capt. SMITH, Lieut. FLEURY, Quarter Master SMITH
Sergt. EGO, Corp. HAND, Sergt. FARR

Second row—Q.M. Sergt. COLLET, L. Corp. TETLEY, Capt.'s Orderly PUGH,
Sergt. PRICE, Sgt. MONTGOMERY, Corp. LYONS

HISTORY OF THE 12TH REGIMENT, YORK RANGERS

CHAPTER XIII

STEPPING OUT IN 1885



HE Second Rebellion of Louis Riel is a sermon on the words "Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour," and illustrates the frightful rapidity with which peace ends and war begins. In an opposition paper (*The Globe*) of March 20th, appeared this small item:—

"Prince Albert, March 19th. Louis Riel, the hero of the 'Red River Rebellion,' recently exiled from Manitoba, has created dissension among the half-breeds and an outbreak is imminent. The situation is considered critical."

The administration of the day went placidly on attending to other matters and seeking to keep the public of eastern Canada from troubling about the North West. Some of the government press rebuked the *Globe*, others ignored it. The Canadian public was more interested in Afghanistan than Saskatchewan.

Suddenly on Saturday, March 28th, the government organ itself—*The Mail*—sounded the alarm and proclaimed a call to arms giving the narrative of the defeat of Crozier, and saying in its editorial: "Up to last evening the government had reasonable grounds for believing that the disturbances fomented by Louis Riel in the Saskatchewan region were of a comparatively insignificant character. That view must now be abandoned."

On the morning of the same day eighty men of the infantry at the barracks known as "C School," and two hundred and fifty each of the Queen's Own and Royal Grenadiers were called out, and at 10 a.m. on Monday 30th marched out from the armoury and entrained for the North West. General Middleton had already started for Qu'Appelle with the 90th Battalion, the Winnipeg Battery, and some cavalry.

The militia authorities of that time seemed of a mind not to do too much in one day and kept calling out the battalions piece-meal instead of mobilizing a strong force and at once forwarding it to General Middleton. That the men he had to hand in the combats at Fish Creek and Batoche proved sufficient for the work was part of the good fortune of that rugged old fighter. But there was no margin of safety and not even complete success can justify the principle of campaigning by driblets.

The turn of the 12th came on March 30th, when Col. Denison, the D.A.G., having just got word from Ottawa, issued an after dinner order at 8 p.m., calling out four companies of the Rangers along with four of the Simcoe Foresters. The machinery for selecting this force is embodied in a regimental order which we give in full:—

HISTORY OF THE 12TH REGIMENT, YORK RANGERS

TORONTO, March 30th, 1885.

Regimental orders by Lieut.-Col. Wyndham, commanding 12th Battalion.

No 1. Four companies of the battalion being ordered for active service the officers commanding companies will at once assemble their companies at their respective company headquarters for inspection.

No. 2. Each company will furnish twenty men and one Sergeant. Companies 1, 3, 5 and 7 will furnish two Sergeants: the men must be inspected by the Surgeon or Assistant Surgeon and the Adjutant.

No. 3. Surgeon Hillary will be in attendance at the headquarters of the Newmarket Company, on the 31st, for the purpose of inspecting the men belonging to the Newmarket and Sharon Companies, between the hours of 9 and 12, and at the headquarters of the Aurora Company, between the hours of one and four.

No. 4. Assistant Surgeon Machell will inspect the Riverside, Parkdale, Yorkville and Seaton Village Companies, during the evening of the 31st, at their respective company headquarters.

No. 5. The Adjutant will attend at Newmarket, Aurora, Parkdale, Seaton Village, Yorkville and Riverside on the same day, and at the same time as the Surgeon and Assistant Surgeon for the purpose of selecting suitable men.

No. 6. The 12th Battalion will furnish Quarter-Master Sergeant, and Paymaster's Clerk.

No. 7. The following officers are detailed for active service in the North West.

Major Wayling, in command of Newmarket and Sharon.

Capt. Smith, in command of Aurora and Sutton.

Capt. Brooke, in command of Yorkville and Seaton Village.

Capt. Thompson, in command of Parkdale and Riverside.

Lieut. J. K. Leslie, of No. 8 Company.

Lieut. G. Vennell, of No. 5 Company.

Lieut. J. T. Symons, of No. 6 Company.

Lieut. T. W. Booth, of No. 5 Company.

Lieut. Fleury, of No. 7 Company.

Lieut. J. A. W. Allan, of No. 8 Company.

Lieut. Geo. Sutherland, of No. 7 Company.

Quarter-master Smith.

By order

JOHN T. THOMPSON, Captain and Adjutant.

So much for the formal order. The real message was by bugle. We copy from a contemporary paper.¹

1. *The Globe*, Wednesday, April 1st, 1885.

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ROUSING THE RANGERS

A Midnight Assembly on the Bugle Call.

The Call Responded to Promptly.

"The resonant tones of a bugle sounding the assembly on Monday night, roused many a slumbering citizen in the northern, western, and eastern parts of the city, between midnight and dawn and large numbers of those acquainted with the meaning of the call and who belonged to military organizations, hastily dressed themselves and rushed out under the impression that

THE CALL TO ARMS

was intended to summon the remaining portions of the Queen's Own and Grenadiers together for service. Such, however, was not the case, the summons being intended only for members of the 12th Battalion of York Rangers, companies of



Taking over Stores at Humboldt

which regiment have their headquarters in Parkdale, St. Paul's Ward, Seaton Village and Riverside. Col. Wyndham, who commands the Rangers received orders to draft four companies out of his command to form one wing of a battalion for active service, the other half of which will be drawn from the 35th or Simcoe Foresters."

As an example of how the Rangers responded to the call we give the following pen sketch:—

"The Parkdale Platoon assembled at the company armoury, at eight o'clock yesterday morning and having been provided with their outfit fell into line and were addressed by Lieut. Booth, who thanked them for their prompt response to the call of duty. No. 6, or the Parkdale Company have a brass band and headed by it marched out through the village and afterwards returning to the armoury were dismissed for the day."

HISTORY OF THE 12TH REGIMENT, YORK RANGERS

The companies being paraded and the selections or rather rejections being made, for all were pressing to go, the understanding was that the companies were to be drilled daily at their headquarters until Saturday, April 4th. On this date it was expected the whole York-Simcoe Battalion would be assembled at the New Fort and dressed up and down prior to its departure for the scene of war.

Here, however, this bi-county contingent received one of those spasmodic impulses to the front that characterized the campaign. On Thursday, April 2nd, the new provisional battalion found itself aboard of two trains bound for the North West. This new order caught the men before they had time to affect that trimness of appearance which in the eyes of many is the essence of soldierliness. An eye-witness reported, "It is much to be feared that the departure of this battalion has been much too hurried. Of the Toronto contingent at least it may be positively said that they were not in a fit state to take the field. The clothing in many instances is old and rotten, the knapsacks ill fitted and so badly packed that a day's march in them would be sufficient to break down a Hercules." We shall see that nevertheless the regiment could march and did.

THE GAPS

Now if it had been designed to specially inure troops to the extremes of comfort and hardship and accustom them to sudden transitions from the easiest to the hardest modes of travel, a more appropriate route and season could not have been selected than the then line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, in the early days of April. The railway itself the men found comfortable and its officials considerate and energetic. But the section north of Lake Superior, one of the bleakest regions in the world, had formidable gaps where the railway ceased—the "End of Iron" they called it in those days.

The surmounting of these gaps by the first regiment to be sent,—the Queen's Own Rifles,—was the subject of much highly strained writing on the part of certain correspondents who appeared to prefer a picturesque luridosity of style to the reputation of their regiment for manliness and endurance. The tender-souled public of Toronto were tortured with pictures of the most frightful weather conditions and by representations of their sons, frostbitten, sun-blistered, snow-blind and delirious. In reality the Queen's Own Rifles and the next comers, the 10th, stood their marches well and as the saying is "stuck it out."

The effect of all this "scare writing" on the men of the York-Simcoe Battalion was that they made up their minds that, when they came to the gaps that had to be marched, they would crush through in quicker time than their predecessors, and they did.

The first gap, which began at Dog Lake, was crossed with sleighs carrying twelve men apiece. At the end of this ride our contingent found no train waiting and took their first experience of a bivouac. One of them writes: "We had to lie out on a cold night without tents or any covering except a blanket on eighteen inches or two feet of snow and recommence our journey next morning without

HISTORY OF THE 12TH REGIMENT, YORK RANGERS

breakfast on open construction cars."¹ Another more fortunate got "a little bread and coffee."²

Then came luxury and as the ancient histories would say, "the delights of Capua": They got a good supper at Fort Monroe. One who was billeted with Mr. Samuel Allison slept (for the first time after leaving Toronto) with some seventy others on the bare boards "with the whole of that number in a room about 12 feet by 16 feet."³

Having thus reposed in close order, the troops were next day permitted to extend themselves in a series of marches alternated with rides on sleighs and flat cars. One of the 12th fortunately wrote down to his "chum" in Toronto, while the impressions were fresh. We quote his words:

"On the morning of the 7th we had breakfast and proceeded to march on the Lake (Superior) from Fort Munro to MacKellar's Harbour distant 25 miles. It rained all the time and we were up to our ankles in ice water, but in spite of the strong wind which also prevailed not a man fell out and we made the distance in seven and a half hours. I can assure you I felt very tired and cold, being drenched through. Here we had to cut wood and build fires in the open air and each man was served with a biscuit.

"We remained for about six hours trying to dry our clothes, but it stopped raining and commenced to freeze and while one's back was freezing he would be burning in front. We left by flat cars about twelve o'clock to go fifteen miles further to Jackfish Bay. Had supper about two a.m., hard tack and pork."

TREADING ON THE HEELS OF THE 65TH

"At Jackfish Bay we overtook the 65th, a Montreal Regiment, and as a consequence had a day³ to dry up and recruit ourselves." This deliberation of the 65th caused some controversy as to whether that regiment "had balked at the gaps." Whether that fine regiment was not a little influenced by racial reluctance to take part against the Metis, is one of the historic questions of the campaign that are not now worth solving. That the 65th could march and endure was abundantly proved later on.⁴

THE LAST GAP

Having crossed the third gap partly on foot and partly with the sleighs that had returned from conveying the 65th, the York-Simcoes were huddled together on flat cars and rode some sixty-five dismal miles to Nipigon, where they arrived at 10 p.m. of April 9th, to commence the march across the last, the shortest and the

1. He belonged to the 12th of course.

2. Checking the statements of veterans as to distances and intervals is the most ungrateful task of any historian. In this instance taking a man's height at five feet five, he would have six inches width to lie in. They must have "spooned."

3. April 8th.

4. They got the name of "Alligators" from their ability to "negotiate" streams. On June 23rd they marched thirty-four miles, and marched next day too.

HISTORY OF THE 12TH REGIMENT, YORK RANGERS

weariest of the gaps. The exquisite nature of the fatigue incurred was carefully set down by one who seems to have ached with the very recollection. He says:

"And this though the shortest was the most trying march of the whole. We started about ten o'clock at night and in the dark tramped about fifteen miles over the lake on the ice. You may realize what these marches on the ice mean when I tell you that there was from twelve to eighteen inches of snow covering it and the track we had to walk in was simply gutters made by the runners of the transport sleighs. In daylight when you could see to place your feet there was a tendency in them to slide together all the time from the sloping sides of the gutter and at night this tendency was increased ten fold. To add to the discomfort the track in the first and last marches was partly filled with water from the melted snow. In the first march during the prevailing rain it was from six to eight inches deep."

The appearance of the regiment after it came through and arrived at Winnipeg on the morning of April 11th, was noted in the *Winnipeg Times*:



Crossing the Prairies—Regimental Transport of the York-Simcoes

"The experiences of the men have been similar to the other troops who came by the Lake Superior division, but despite the discomforts attendant upon the several fatiguing marches the battalion impresses one very creditably. The men are a robust class and their demeanour and deportment are irreproachable. They have been on the road nine days, having left Toronto a week ago Thursday last. At Jackfish Bay, they overtook the 65th Battalion, but were delayed there by the limited transport accommodation. The weather for many days was wet and cold, and the roads almost impassable. Although sinking deep in the mud, one march of twenty-six miles was made in eight hours, and not one of the men faltered, a record which the battalion points to with pride. No sickness or accidents of any kind occurred, and the entire body are in splendid spirits. Upon arrival here the

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men were furnished breakfast at the C.P.R. dining hall. In the battalion are a number of the old Mounted Police Force, who are to form a detachment for service as scouts. The battalion, in accordance with orders from Ottawa, are to go into barracks here for several days, and at noon orders were issued for them to go into camp on the west side of Main Street, just beyond the railway track."

EX ROUTE TO FORT QU'APPELLE

Any expectation that was forming in the men's minds of being allowed to relax themselves in Winnipeg was rudely dispelled by the battalion being entrained on the night of Sunday the 12th, and carried westerly over three hundred miles to Qu'Appelle Station or Troy,¹ where they arrived on Tuesday the 14th. Here the 12th pitched camp and remained until Friday the 17th, when they were marched to Fort Qu'Appelle, a distance of some eighteen miles, through the mud.

This march, mud and all, seemed so light compared to the gaps that the boys found food for merriment in many trifling episodes on the way. For example, Private Theobald in the military phrase "took on scarlet," or in other words left off his overcoat. It is a rule among the military that this should be done on a set day by order formally issued. This unauthorized action of Private Theobald making himself conspicuous by his red coat among all the dark overcoats, incensed one of the transport oxen, "and it caught Private Theobald in the bosom of his pants with its horns and landed him in a pond of water yelling at the top of his voice."

On April 21st, the 35th rejoined the 12th at Fort Qu'Appelle, "and the 12th gave them a hearty cheer and one of the boys had a fiddle and came in playing it at the head of the battalion. The York Rangers pitched their tents for them."

From this time until the 13th day of May, "*the Direction*"² kept the York-Simcoes eating their hearts out at Fort Qu'Appelle.

During this enforced stay at Fort Qu'Appelle the officers were not idle and provided a sufficiency of drill and tactical work for those under their command. Sergt. Bert Smith of the 12th, in a letter written April 27th, gives an idea of what was going on. "We have had the Toronto Body Guards also the Winnipeg and Quebec Body Guards with us for four or five days, but most of them have gone on to the front. About 3 a.m. Saturday last, I heard Capt. Thompson³ trying to wake me up. When I got awake he said he wanted four of the best men in my tent to go on a march that we thought had been postponed. We sent ninety good men and twenty cavalry, but the boys are back since Sunday noon, for they failed to capture anything. It was some of Riel's supplies they were after. Everything is quiet around here."

1. The 12th and 35th were separated for a time after this.

2. This is a German phrase which all must use who wish to be considered great strategical thinkers. It means the people high up who are responsible for the conduct of the campaign. We hesitate to criticise anybody in this campaign, and will try to think it sound strategy to have a good battalion down the lines all the while Middleton was trying to hammer through at Fish Creek and Batoche, and then when the enemy was beaten rush the battalion up by forced marches. Truly war is a puzzling science!

The battalion blamed Colonel O'Brien for not pressing the authorities for an early order to advance.

3. Afterwards Lieut.-Col. J. T. Thompson, a particularly troublesome man when there was some duty to be performed.

HISTORY OF THE 12TH REGIMENT, YORK RANGERS

WHEN THE SENTRY FIRES

On May 6th the camp had an experience which is a necessary part of military training. We may give it in the words of Capt. Campbell, of the Simcoe Foresters.¹

"Last night (Wednesday) our camp had a genuine rouse. We had a picket posted at a ford down the river about 800 yards from the camp, there being a sergeant's guard at the place. About 11 o'clock the sentry saw or thought he saw four men with some horses at a little distance from him. He gave the challenge, but there was no answer and the parties attempted apparently to get under cover. The sentry at once fired and called out the guard. This of course was heard in camp and immediately the bugle sounded the Assembly and then there was a rushing to arms and mounting in hot haste. In about five minutes every available man in the regiment was under arms and ready to fight. The companies were rapidly placed in fighting order round our camp, some being sent out to assist the picket and others to defend the bridge."

"This was all done without noise or confusion.² After the first shot some of the other pickets and sentries answered and for a short time the firing was pretty lively and everything had the sound and appearance of a genuine attack."

THE BIG FORCED MARCH

On May 13th, acting under urgent orders, Lieut.-Colonel O'Brien set his battalion to a forced march to Humboldt.

The distances given in the line of march for troops as arranged by Capt. Bedson in charge of the transport were as follows:

Fort Qu'Appelle	to Stoughton (otherwise called Howden and Houston)	$24\frac{1}{2}$	Miles
Stoughton	to Touchwood	$24\frac{1}{2}$	"
Touchwood	to Bedson	20	"
Bedson	to Salt Plains (otherwise called Swin- ford)	20	"
Salt Plains	to Wise	$21\frac{1}{2}$	"
Wise	to Humboldt	$21\frac{1}{2}$	"
	Total	132	miles

This distance the York-Simcoes devoured in seven days. When we figure that this makes practically an average daily march of 19 miles³ and compare it with

1. Published in the *Mail* of May 16th, 1885.

2. Other than that caused by two or three men loading their rifles and blazing off before they even got out of the tents. The experience of a general assembly was repeated next night when a sentry fired at a teamster who failed to answer when challenged. The teamster when brought in a prisoner looked very white and depressed.

3. The marches were of unequal length. Friday and Saturday being short days. On Sunday, on the other hand, they marched twenty-two miles beside attending Divine Service, which by the way the battalion never neglected any Sunday while it was in the North West. Sergt. Brown of the 12th records a particularly impressive sermon preached on May 10th by a Presbyterian Missionary, Mr. Matthewson.

HISTORY OF THE 12TH REGIMENT, YORK RANGERS

the normal $13\frac{1}{2}$ miles of European infantry it is borne in on us that these volunteers were in haste to get to the front.

The first day's march is described in the diary of a Simcoe Forester:

"May 13th, we left Fort Qu'Appelle at six a.m. under command of Col. O'Brien, M.P. On climbing the hill at Fort York, we halted and the troops were photographed. We marched about 13 miles when we halted for dinner, and took up a company that was stationed here under command of Major Wayling.¹ Here was erected a very nice fort which we christened Fort Wayling. We arrived at Howden,² at seven p.m., distant from Qu'Appelle about 28 miles."

THE ASTRINGENT QUALITIES OF THE COLONEL

This strenuous stepping out was also a test of discipline and enabled the battalion to rid itself of one or two weak characters with a taste for malingering. On the second day, one Private Fontaine incurred courtmartial by a difference with Col. O'Brien, as to the magnitude and importance of the blisters on Fontaine's legs. The colonel was a tall grim man who might have sat for a portrait of one of Wellington's generals. He could and generally did walk all day; and inaccessible to fatigue himself wasted no pity on others and was the very man to make a young battalion kick the miles out behind it. In addition he was a fluent and convincing public speaker with great powers of expression. The diarist records that "he spoke to the officers in a very harsh manner while on the march." His manner to the privates may, therefore, have appeared to lack sympathy. When Fontaine appealed to the colonel to allow him to ride he said that if Fontaine asked him again he would flog him. The upshot was that Fontaine was sentenced for insubordination and deserted during the night along with another malingering rascal.

Next morning Col. O'Brien addressed the whole battalion on the subject of desertion and his listeners vouch that if his words were not exactly a privilege to hear they were at least not difficult to remember.

Twice during the seven days the battalion was overtaken by terrific thunder storms accompanied by hail-stones of a size unknown in Ontario. As their great coats and oil sheets were on the wagons behind, the men were soaked to the skin, but seem to have taken no hurt. On the 19th, they made Humboldt, and met an escort of the Body Guard with White Cap and his band of prisoners, Mrs. White Cap riding astride of Lieut. Fleming's³ horse.

The appearance of the battalion when it struck Humboldt was described by a newspaper correspondent.⁴

"The 35th and 12th have just reached camp, Col. O'Brien in command. They marched—actually marched—from Fort Qu'Appelle, doing the 127 miles

1. Major Wayling afterwards Lieut.-Col., and now Honorary Lieut.-Col. of the 12th.

2. Otherwise known as Stoughton. The names given for places in this journey are somewhat arbitrary. The same diarist says: "Strange to say that although there are names of places given above we only saw two or three houses at Touchwood and one at Touchwood Hills."

3. Now Lieut.-Col. Fleming of the Governor General's Body Guard.

4. *Globe*, May 30th, 1885.

HISTORY OF THE 12TH REGIMENT, YORK RANGERS

since Wednesday morning last,—seven days in all. The men came in as lively as crickets and are now resting half a mile along the trail south of the Body Guard. Col. Tyrwhitt, senior Major in command, marched the entire distance permitting his servant to ride his horse."

THE MEANDERINGS OF SERGT. BROWN¹

Among the members of the 12th, there was none on (and more often off) the strength who saw more than Staff-Sergt. Brown. Originally picked to go with the contingent he was deemed medically unfit and on his way to the station was ordered by Capt. Thompson to fall to the rear. He obeyed, but smuggled aboard



Lieut.-Col. F. W. Brown

the train and after various vicissitudes and making himself useful in various capacities he reached Winnipeg. Here he got himself attached to the Brigade Staff, from April 13th to the 30th, when he rejoined the battalion at Fort Qu'Appelle. Here for a time his presence was ignored, but on May 11th, he was made sergeant of a guard of twelve men, one corporal and one mounted soldier. This guard was

1. Afterwards an officer in the 12th, Capt. of No. 6 Company, Junior Major, retiring in 1911, with rank of Lieut.-Col.

HISTORY OF THE 12TH REGIMENT, YORK RANGERS

kept on duty for forty-eight hours without relief and then without sleep compelled to undergo the march that began on May 13th, with the result that three men of the guard collapsed. On May 20th, Brown was again taken off the strength and attached to the Supply Officer in Humboldt, a quaint inebriate familiarly known as "Micky Free." In this capacity he remained at Humboldt, enjoying the festivities that celebrated the Queen's birthday,¹ and making the highest score in the battalion rifle match, until hearing on June 30th that a telegram had arrived to hold the troops in readiness for home he applied for leave of absence. Under leave, Brown proceeded as far as Regina, where by the favor of an acquaintance in the North West Mounted Police, he was permitted to see Louis Riel marching up and down taking exercise in the jail paddock and carrying a ball and chain in his arms. His picture of Riel, jotted down at the time is not that of the shifty and loquacious demagogue he was sometimes painted:

"Riel is a big burly fellow and stands about five feet ten inches high; very broad shouldered; 190 pounds; dark complexion, black long hair and beard; high cheek bones and very large nose. With a down and sullen look; very polite to guards, and looked like a farm labourer returning from work without a coat on."

Having accomplished what no other of the 12th for all their marching succeeded in doing, namely, having a look at the Rebel Leader, Brown got back to Qu'Appelle in time to see the York-Simcoes march in, which they did, having adhered throughout the distance from Humboldt to Qu'Appelle to the Body Guard and earned from Col. Denison the name of his "Foot Cavalry."

THE RECEPTIONS

The journey home of the regiments from the North West was a series of receptions. At Port Arthur the troops embarked for Collingwood and entrained for Toronto. At Barrie the good feeling that prevailed between the 35th and the 12th was evidenced by the presentation of a sword and belts to Lieut.-Col. Trywhitt of the 35th, on behalf of the 12th officers. The celebrations held in Toronto on July 22nd and 23rd will long be remembered and the York-Simcoe Battalion received its official order to "Dismiss" on July 24th, 1885. It had not got into action; like Wellington's Sixth Division which was nicknamed "the Marching Division," because of its continuous marching up and down without the fortune of a battle. But for the Sixth Division, there came at last the opportunity of Salamanca, and who knows what the future holds.²

1. The 24th being a Sunday was celebrated on the 23rd and 25th, with games, dances and a concert at which Col. G. T. Denison recited "The Yankee Militia Officer." The colonel being the Senior at Humboldt, reviewed the troops on June 26th.

2. It is not true that militia officers ever desire a war; just as it is untrue that the Senior Captain chuckles when the Junior Major's shot.

*The 12th Regiment on its own Parade Ground
Standing in Quarter Column*

Photo by Kennedy



CHAPTER XIV

ANNALS OF THE 12TH SINCE 1885

 SINCE 1885, the 12th has steadily fulfilled its periodical trainings which have been ordered biennially or annually or otherwise according to the caprice or poverty of the administration.¹

During the earlier years of this last quarter century of militia soldiering, the organization of our forces was depressingly modest. There used to be officials called D.A.A G's and D.O.C's., and a modest brigade and a modest lieutenant-co'onenel brigadiering; and also some machinery which resulted in the company commanders of any rural corps (even as the company commanders of the older Flank Companies and Volunteer Companies) each bringing over to camp about two lieutenants, three sergeants, three corporals, one bugler, who could not bugle and twenty or thirty private citizens of leisure, but not means. Since then we have undergone tremendous changes of an almost revolutionary character by which we have read of not only brigades, but divisions and then the Canadian Army,² and back to the Canadian Militia. The "battalions" have become "regiments," while the gentlemen whose function is that of beneficially interfering with the regimental officers have been variously enlarged to colonels, brigadiers and generals.

And the complete and total result to the rural infantry,³ at any rate to the 12th, has been that at our annual camp the captains bring over to Niagara about two lieutenants, three sergeants, three corporals, the indispensable and inharmonious bugler and the twenty or thirty private citizens of the Empire.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR

There was some little mild excitement when on September 16th, 1899, Lieut.-Col. Lloyd, the then commanding officer offered the services of the battalion under his command in aid of the Imperial Government in the Transvaal.

The characteristic reply of the authorities wavers between flattery and irony. We give it in full as a model of official correspondence, in cases where the correspondent has no intention of taking any action.:—

1. In June of '86, '88, '90, '92, '95, Sept. '96, June, '98, '99, '00, '01; and Oct. '01, in Sept.-Oct., '02, and in June annually from '03, to date.

2. This was Gen. Hutton's idea.

3. Some of the rural corps have not been able to bring full companies. Possibly too many have been drafted to become colonels.

HISTORY OF THE 12TH REGIMENT, YORK RANGERS

A.G. 084.500

12th Battalion
Offer of Ser-
vices for
South Africa.

TORONTO, 29th September, 1899.
From D.O.C., M.D., No. 2

To

The Officer Commanding 12th Battalion.

Referring to your letter of the 16th inst., upon the subject named in the margin, I am instructed to forward for your information and action, a copy of the remarks of the General Officer Commanding, viz.:

2. The Major General Commanding will have much pleasure in forwarding the letter of the Officer Commanding 12th Battalion, in which he offers the battalion under his command in aid of the Imperial Government in the Transvaal.

3. The Major General Commanding cannot refrain from expressing his satisfaction at the patriotic feeling shown by Lieut.-Col. Lloyd and those under his command.

4. I am desired to request that Lieut.-Col. Lloyd will be good enough to state more specifically the names of the officers and to give the exact numbers of the non-commissioned officers and men who are actually prepared to volunteer for service.

It appears to the Major General Commanding that the statement that the whole regiment is prepared to volunteer may not be in accordance with the feeling of every individual connected with the battalion.

By order

(Sgd) H. FOSTER, COL., C. S. O.

(2)

The further information called for in paragraph four you will please furnish with the least possible delay.¹

W. D. OTTER, Lieut.-Col.,
Commanding M.D., No. 2.

(3)

You will be good enough to furnish the Adjutant at once with the information asked for in paragraph four for your company.

T. H. LLOYD, Lieut.-Col.,
Commanding 12th Battalion.

While the response of the officers, non-coms. and men was hearty and practically unanimous the Government was not moved. The fact is the administration was stepping into the waters of Imperialism one toe at a time like a small boy going in for the first swim of the season. The recruiting for South Africa was

1. In military correspondence each officer through whose hands a letter passes adds a new number and gives his comment below it.

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at first merely permissive. It is only by degrees that the principle of Canadians taking part as a matter of course in Imperial wars has established itself; and there are even yet public men in Canada who repudiate the principle. In any event when the Government of Canada sends a contingent of active militia abroad, whether for service or ceremonial, there is only one proper system of making up the expeditionary force, namely by proportional representation as far as possible of the various regiments. To select one corps would give the temporary advantage of regimental unity at the expense of the permanent disadvantage of slighting every other corps.

The offer of Lloyd raised some waspish criticism. One very unjust slander of that day was that the ranks of the 12th were filled during camp with members of the city regiments. Time has given the 12th its revenge. For during the camps of 1912, the city regiments having to undergo a camp found great difficulty in making a decent representation; while the 12th, as usual, was up to strength. The fact is that the night drilling population and the camp going population are two rather distinct classes and hitherto the 12th has organized the latter and the city regiments the former.

The regiment was not unrepresented by non-coms. and privates in the Boer War. The following were granted leave of absence for the purpose of such service:

B Company, Corp. T. H. Graham, Ptes. H. G. Brunton, H. Machin.

C Company Sergt. Jno. Fawcett,

E Company, Pte. Brettingham,

F Company, Ptes. Geo. Simpson, Jas. Davidson.

In addition to these the Quartermaster (now Major Gillies) folded up his own tent and stole away with Strathcona's Horse; returning with a decoration. Our present Adjutant, Capt. Dunham, joined the 12th after his war experience which included Paardeburg.

HIS MAJESTY'S FIRST VISIT

In 1901 the authorities in addition to the annual training called out the militia to give a reception to his present Majesty the King, then Duke of Cornwall and York. The streets of Toronto were lined with troops who stood for some hours amid a gentle but persistent drizzle which, however, could not damp their spirits. A review of ten thousand men in the Exhibition grounds gave the then Duke a fair idea of our military efficiency.¹

Apparently this output of 1901 exhausted the military resources of the nation for we had to be contented in 1902 with a "skeleton" camp in September, composed of officers and non-coms. Lord Dundonald introduced some novelties on this occasion. He made the officers hang their swords up in their tents and substituted picks and shovels. The redoubt built under his orders by officers and non-coms. would have been a good place to herd an enemy into and shoot their heads

1. He said the usual stock thing on these occasions; something about our "soldier like appearance." This phrase ought to be called in. It makes one wonder what is suspected of lying behind the appearance. A militia man would feel safer if told that like the proverbial singed cat he is "better than he looks."

HISTORY OF THE 12TH REGIMENT, YORK RANGERS

off as they showed above the sky line. The blisters on our hands inculcated a great lesson against building unnecessary fortifications.

Another profound lesson was that skeleton camps and other economic evasions of annual training will not serve; it took two years to get the regiments back to strength.¹

HIS MAJESTY'S SECOND VISIT

An extra parade,—the Tercentenary Celebration,—varied the monotony of annual training in 1908, when a selected company of the 12th took part in the review of 12,000 militia on the Plains of Abraham. This composite company was captained by Major Allan now lieutenant-colonel, and under him were Major Curran and Lieut. Curran. The troops were reviewed by the present King, then Prince of Wales,² and sympathetically scrutinized by Lord Roberts.³ The City of Quebec was much crowded with visitors during this celebration and the officers responsible for supply and transport were much worried. However, among the advantages accruing to a regiment that goes to camp regularly is that the officers and non-coms. know how to see that their men both get rations and make the most of the rations they get. Whatever discomfort other battalions may have endured, the 12th came back smiling.

MIGRATIONS OF THE COMPANIES

The companies of the 12th have migrated a good deal; have pulled up their headquarters from time to time and taken other fields. Recruiting apparently has exhausted the soil of the county like a strong crop. Thus No. 1 has come in from Scarboro to Riverside, No. 3,⁴ which once was at King came in to Seaton Village, No. 5 successively occupied Keswick, Sutton, Richmond Hill and finally West Toronto Junction. No. 6 moved to Parkdale and No. 8 to Yorkville. No. 7 moved from Sharon to Sutton; thence it recruited one year in Scarboro and afterwards had its nominal headquarters removed to Weston.

They do not of late years appear in any instance to fly outwards, but rather to gravitate inwards to Toronto.

Toronto was made a city in 1834, and for military purposes appears to have been distinguished from the rest of the county—as a battalion division—in 1846. The 12th has never recognized any exclusion of the city from the county and has never ostracised a recruit because he is a Toronto man. As the city has absorbed the young men of the county and also absorbed the neighboring towns and villages, the regiment has followed its human material even as the shepherd follows his flock. It is true that the Militia List still carries Riverside, Seaton Village, To-

1. The strength required next year was only twenty men per company outside of officers and non-coms. Even that was hard to make up after the disturbance caused by losing one annual camp.

2. Usual phrase, "soldier-like bearing," used in congratulation of troops.

3. "12,000 men under arms and no hitch anywhere. Canada appears to me to be dealing adequately with the problems affecting her Militia" says "Bobs."

4. The companies were renumbered in 1872, four becoming three, five becoming four and so on.

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ronto Junction, Parkdale, Yorkville, Weston and Newmarket as the homes of seven of the eight companies. But Riverside, Seaton Village, Toronto Junction, Parkdale and Yorkville are now in Toronto. Weston is rubbing elbows with the city and the Newmarket Company has moved down Yonge Street, and is now recruited in the district which is shortly to be annexed.

The Aurora Company still stands as a creditable example of what can be done in a country town by an enthusiastic captain. But of the bulk of the regiment we may say that it has filled a want in the community by organizing the camp-going population of Toronto into soldierly material.

OUR SPLENDID ARMOURIES

This restless itinerancy of the companies has its penalties: the vagrants are homeless. The Armouries of the 12th have the merits of variety and improvisation. Outside of the buildings at Aurora used by No. 2 Company, the company



Photo by Kennedy

*A Young Section of the 12th in Drill Order
Niagara Common, June 1912*

commanders in selecting or accepting their quarters have for consolation the ancient maxim "better the worst shelter than the best bivouac." The county authorities take refuge behind a profound mistrust of militarism and contribute nothing to the militia. The City of Toronto is more good natured and has granted the temporary use of various odd corners in its buildings where the captains can store their forty-two rifles and their stocks of coats, overcoats, canteens, water bottles, and all other the pomp of glorious war entrusted to their charge. This does not help recruiting and makes it cruelly difficult for the zealous officer to keep his

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men together between camps. For it is not easy to enjoy club and gymnasium privileges in a room without heating or lighting, and through whose flooring comes up the reek of horse manure from the city stables below. Can nothing be done?

THE 12TH AS IT NOW IS

Of its present state as a camp-going regiment we may say that the 12th was never in better fettle. At Niagara this year (1912) the regiment was not a non-com. or man short of strength. On a few minutes notice it furnished headquarters with a guard of honor of one hundred men who went through the ceremonies like regulars. Since the camp, on short notice, it sent to the Thanksgiving manoeuvres two good companies. Whatever part or duty may be assigned to it, this regiment is willing to undertake. To what extent it is capable of performance we shall let others say. Not ourselves, but the Military Gazette, has written concerning the Niagara Camps of 1911:—

“In the first camp there was but one regiment in really satisfactory shape, the 12th York Rangers.

“Now this regiment is recruited almost exclusively from the large population of Toronto, and is a rural corps in little more than name. It is a shining example of what a city corps, for this it is, to all intents and purposes, can do, when given its training in camp instead of in and near an armoury. With all the smartness and exactness of the city corps it has also the practical knowledge of field work which comes of many year’s training in the open, with the resultant well experienced officers and non-coms. We believe that this corps, enjoying as it does such special advantages, is the best working aggregation of militia men in Canada.”

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APPENDIX A

THE OFFICERS OF THE REGIMENT AS PRINTED IN THE QUARTERLY MILITIA LIST

(1st July, 1912)

12TH REGIMENT "YORK RANGERS."

2nd Divisional Area.

(Organized G. O. 14 Sept., 66).

Regimental Headquarters—Aurora, Ont.

1 Battalion (8 Companies).

Company Headquarters.

A Co.—Riverside.

B Co.—Aurora.

C Co.—Seaton Village.

D Co.—Newmarket.

E Co.—Toronto, June.

F Co.—Parkdale.

G Co.—Weston.

H Co.—Yorkville.

Honorary Lieut.-Colonel—(1) Wayling, Lt.-Col., J., ret., 21 Nov., 06.

Lieut.-Colonel

(D) (1) Allan, J. A. W. 8 Sept. 09

Majors (2)

(D) Nicol, A. G. 1 July 07
15 Aug. 05

(D) (1) Curran, A. 5 Oct. 11
1 June 05

Captains (8)

c Elliott, A. 25 May 98
(maj. 25 May 08)

g Hunter, A. T. 23 May 03

d Clarke, F. F. 4 Jan. 04

a Hamilton, W. B. 19 May 06

Brown, B. H. 14 Dec. 07

(1) Dunham, F. H. 1 June 08

b (1) Taylor, W. H. 7 Apr. 11

h Curran, S. E. 30 Sept. 11

Lieutenants (16).

e Glover, W. R. 21 June 07

c (1) Fowler, W. G. 27 Mar. 08

c Walker, R. 16 Apr. 08

27 Mar. 08

f Brown, F. F. M. 30 May 08

h Darlington, F. G. L. 30 May 08

d Baillie, W (s m.) 30 May 08

d Brann, H. 1 June 08

g Holdsworth, T. H. 24 July 09

e Fletcher, A. G. A. 18 Apr. 10

g Rogers, W. T. 31 May 10

a *Williamson, J. L. 19 June 11

b *Proctor, J. H. 23 Dec. 11

h *Tomlin, H. U. 10 Feb. 12

f *Pink, W. G. 8 Apr. 12

c *Reesor, R. J. 14 Apr. 11

Adjutant

Dunham, F. H. (capt.) 1 June 08

Instructor of Musketry

Elliott, A. (bt. major) 10 May 12

Signalling Officer

Quartermaster

(1) Gillies, A. 27 Aug. 06
(hon maj. 27 Aug. 06)

Medical Officer

(D) Hillary, R. M. (maj.) 18 May 94
(hon. lc 18 May 04)

Paymaster

Knox, J. E. 13 Nov. 06
(hon. maj. 22 Apr. 12)

Chaplain

CORPS RESERVE

Majors (2)

(D) (1) Wayling, J. 6 July 11
23 June 03

Captains (8)

(1) Agnew, J. 19 May 06
21 Dec. 99

Hobbs, J. H. 30 Sept. 11
22 Mar. 10

Lieutenants (16)

Nicholls, E. M. 31 May 10
21 June 07

(1) Dayton, B. J. (s s.) 15 May 12
15 Dec. 09

(1) Active Service. The abbreviation (D) before a name means Colonial Auxiliary Forces Officers Decoration.

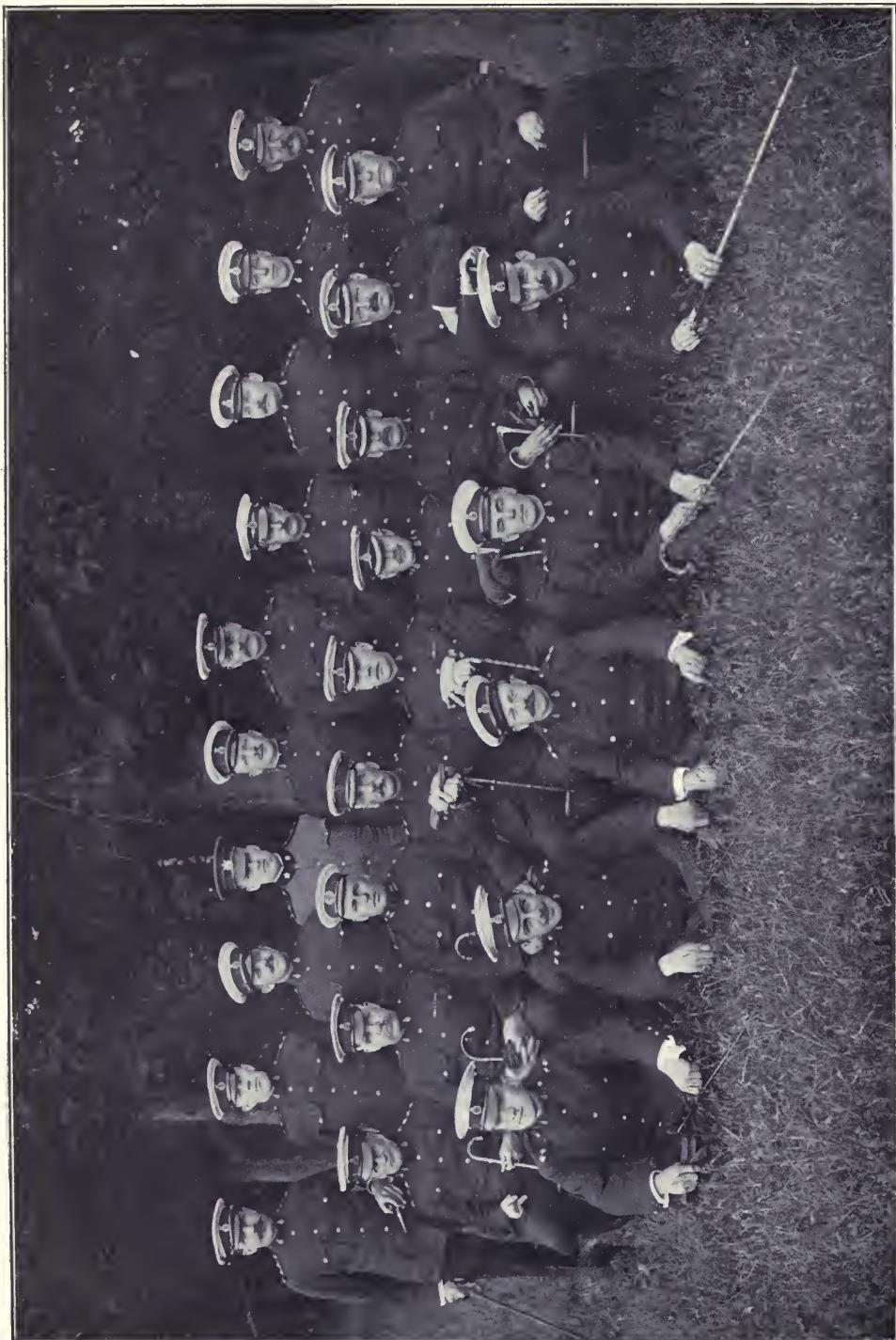


Photo by Kennedy
Officers' Group taken at the Camp, 1912
Front row reading from left to right—Lieut. PINK, Lieut. WILLIAMSON, Lieut. FLETCHER, Lieut. PROCTOR, Lieut. DARLINGTON
Second Row—Capt. HUNTER, Major GILLIES, Brigade Major COWAN, The Brigadier Lieut. Col. HENDERSON,
Lieut. Col. ALLAN, Lieut. Col. HILLARY, Major NICOL, Major KNOX, Major ELLIOTT
Third Row—Capt. BROWN, Lieut. ROGERS, Lieut. BAILIE, An Attached Officer, Lieut. WALKER, Capt. FOWLER, Lieut. BRANN,
Capt. HAMILTON, Capt. DUNHAM, Capt. TAYLOR

HISTORY OF THE 12TH REGIMENT, YORK RANGERS

APPENDIX B

RECORD OF OFFICERS' SERVICES



THE following is a partial list of officers' services since the gazetting of the Volunteer Companies. The record of active service does not go beyond 1885. No systematic Regimental Records appear to have been attempted prior to those commenced by Lieut.-Col. John T. Thompson when Adjutant:

Name	GAZETTED						Service.
	Ensign 2nd Lieut or Prov. Lieut.	Lieut.	Capt.	Major	Lt.-Col.	Retired	
SCARBORO CO'Y.							
Ferguson, J. R.....		19-12-61	.....	.....	.....	4-9-62	
Norris, W. H.....		.....	4-9-62	.....	.....	.....
Taber, J. R.....	4-9-62	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Rush, G.....	4-9-62	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Stobo, R. H.....	6-1-65	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Stobo, Isaac.....	66	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
AURORA CO'Y.							
Ashton, Seth.....		11-12-62	.....	.....	.....	24-7-63	
Hutchinson, W. B.....	11-12-62	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Goode, C.....	11-12-62	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Peel, E. M.....		.....	24-7-63	.....	.....	.....
Campbell, R.....	4-9-63	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Pearson, Nath.....	1-12-65	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
LLOYDTOWN CO'Y.							
Budd, E.....		19-12-62	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ramsay, G.....	19-12-62	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Hunter, R.....	19-12-62	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Armstrong, A.....		.....	26-8-63	.....	.....	.....
Peebles, A. J. L.....	7-4-65	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
KING CO'Y.							
Garden, G. L.....		23-1-63	.....	.....	.....	.....
Dennis, Isaac.....	23-1-63	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Norman, Chas.....	23-1-63	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
12TH REG'R.							
Jarvis, W. D.....		.....	.....	.....	14-9-66	9-2-72	
Norris, W. H.....		.....	.....	14-9-66	9-2-72	18-4-78	
Peel, E. M.....		.....	.....	14-9-66	.....	28-5-75	
Garden, G. L.....		.....	.....	.....	18-1-78	17-3-82	

HISTORY OF THE 12TH REGIMENT, YORK RANGERS

GAZETTED

Name	Ensign 2nd Lieut. or Prov. Lieut.	Lieut.	Capt.	Major	Lt. Col.	Retired	Service.
Armstrong, A.....	.....	.....	26-8-63	23-5-73	.....	23-5-73	
Peebles, A. J. L.....	.....	7-4-65	14-9-66	.....	.....	10-5-72	
Bovell, Jas.....	.....	3-4-61	14-12-66	.....	.....	2-6-71	
Taber, J. R.....	.....	4-9-62	14-12-66	.....	.....	16-10-69	
Stobo, R. H.....	14-9-62	14-9-66	.....	.....	.....	11-9-74	
Norman, Chas.....	23-1-63	14-12-66	10-5-72	.....	.....	16-10-69	
Pearson, N.....	.....	1-12-65	14-9-66	.....	.....	10-5-72	
Boulbee, A.....	.....	.....	15-6-66	.....	.....	7-6-72	
Wyndham, A.....	.....	.....	28-9-66	10-5-75	17-3-82	23-5-86	N.W. Rebellion, 1885
Huxtable, J.....	14-9-66	.....	16-10-69	.....	.....	14-6-72	
Boucher, W.....	.....	5-10-66	.....	.....	.....	.2-6-71	
Stevenson, J. R.....	5-10-66	14-6-72	.....	.....	.....	31-6-74	
Milne, T. A.....	.....	.....	19-10-66	.....	.....	2-6-71	
Robinson, J.....	.....	19-10-66	.....	.....	.....	11-10-67	
Canning, S.....	19-10-66	.....	.....	.....	.....	4-8-71	
Selby, W.....	.....	.....	19-10-66	.....	.....	28-6-67	
Selby, J. W.....	.....	19-10-66	28-6-72	28-6-72	28-5-75	17-3-82	
Wayling, J.....	19-10-66	19-6-67	28-5-75	17-3-82	21-5-86	5-16-98	
Eckhardt, S.....	.....	6-11-66	.....	.....	.....	12-6-72	
Eaken, W.....	6-11-66	.....	.....	.....	.....	23-5-72	
Crosby, H. P.....	.....	16-11-66	.....	.....	.....	12-7-72	
Spencer, W.....	14-12-66	.....	.....	.....	.....	18-6-69	
Armstrong, W. T.....	.....	14-12-66	.....	.....	.....	16-10-69	
Crosby, L. W. N.....	.....	16-11-66	.....	.....	.....	12-7-72	
Thompson, J.....	14-12-66	.....	.....	.....	.....	16-10-69	
Cawthra, J.....	.....	.....	21-12-66	.....	.....	23-10-74	
Trent, W.....	21-12-66	.....	.....	.....	.....	7-6-67	
McFaydden, C.....	.....	21-12-66	.....	.....	.....	29-10-69	
Hillary, R. W.....	.....	5-23-67	.....	2-6-71	.....	10-5-94	
Gamble, M. C.....	.....	7-6-67	.....	.....	.....	14-10-70	
Rolph, W.....	.....	11-10-67	2-6-71	.....	.....	25-10-72	
Wood, J. W.....	.....	18-6-69	.....	.....	.....	23-5-72	
Graham, G.....	18-6-69	.....	.....	.....	.....	23-5-72	
Dudley, W. H.....	18-6-69	.....	.....	.....	.....	10-5-72	
Robinson, J.....	10-6-69	.....	.....	.....	.....	1-8-79	
Chester, H.....	.....	16-10-69	7-6-72	.....	.....	12-2-75	
Hartman, F. B.....	16-10-69	23-5-72	.....	.....	.....	28-5-75	
Parkhill, W.....	14-10-70	.....	.....	.....	.....	20-6-73	
Lloyd, T. H.....	12-6-71	.....	10-5-72	27-6-84	16-5-98	16-5-03	
Bentley, T. H.....	2-6-71	.....	.....	.....	.....	11-9-74	
Reesor, R.....	.....	2-6-71	25-10-72	.....	.....	12-7-12	
Whitney, F. L.....	4-8-71	.....	.....	.....	.....	23-5-72	
Lee, C. W.....	23-3-72	7-6-72	5-2-75	.....	.....	31-3-82	
Robinson, T.....	.....	10-5-72	.....	.....	.....	5-5-74	
Braithwaite, W.....	10-5-72	12-7-72	.....	.....	.....	28-5-75	
Wills, L.....	10-5-72	.....	.....	.....	.....	11-9-74	
Garden, E. G.....	10-5-72	16-5-73	.....	.....	.....	5-11-75	
Bruce, W.....	10-5-72	.....	11-9-74	.....	.....	27-6-84	
Pearson, N.....	.....	.....	23-5-72	.....	.....	28-5-75	
Andrews, A. Y.....	23-5-72	.....	.....	.....	23-10-74		
Eckhardt, T.....	.....	23-5-72	.....	.....	.....	20-4-77	

HISTORY OF THE 12TH REGIMENT, YORK RANGERS

GAZETTED

Name.....	Ensign 2nd Lieut. or Prov. Lieut.	Lieut.	Capt.	Major	Lt. Col.	Retired	Service.
Reesor, F. A.....	23-5-72	25-10-72	.....	.....	.....	10-7-74	
Botsford, J. A.....	23-5-72	.....	.....	.....	.....	9-5-75	
Busk, J.....	7-6-72	.....	.....	.....	.....	23-10-74	
Pagent, C. B.....	14-6-72	.....	.....	.....	.....	30-7-80	
Campbell, L. C.....	.....	12-7-74	23-4-80	.....	.....	9-11-83	
Tomlinson, C.....	4-3-73	10-7-74	23-4-80	.....	.....	9-11-83	
Bowden, W. H.....	20-6-73	11-9-74	.....	.....	.....	18-6-75	
Stewart, W.....	.....	11-9-74	.....	.....	.....	1-8-79	
Stevenson, J. R.....	.....	31-9-74	.....	.....	.....	28-5-75	
Richardson, S. R.....	.....	9-10-74	.....	.....	.....	5-6-78	
Strange, F. W.....	.....	.....	28-5-75	.....	.....	24-8-77	N.W. Rebellion, 1885, Medal, transferred to Q.O.R.
Baker, H.....	.....	28-5-75	.....	.....	.....	24-7-77	
Macdonald, F.....	28-5-75	.....	.....	.....	.....	24-8-77	
Smith, J. F.....	.....	18-6-75	.....	.....	.....	1-8-79	N.W. Rebellion, 1885, Medal
Woods, R.....	25-6-75	2-7-80	.....	.....	.....	1-4-82	
Clelland, E.....	.....	2-7-75	.....	.....	.....	1-8-79	
Lewis, J. W.....	.....	.....	5-11-75	10-11-76	.....	1-12-83	Brigade-Major, Abyssinian Expedition, 1867-68, ac- tion at Ardghe and Mag- dala Medal
Vidal, B. H.....	.....	.....	20-4-77	11-3-82	.....	21-12-83	
Strathy, J. R.....	.....	20-4-77	.....	.....	.....	5-3-81	
Saunders, B.....	25-5-77	.....	.....	.....	.....	2-5-79	
Irwin, M. B.....	.....	.....	24-8-77	.....	.....	31-3-82	
Flintoff, J. T.....	.....	24-8-77	.....	.....	.....	27-6-84	
Machel, T. H.....	5-7-78	.....	.....	.....	.....	18-6-86	
Smith, J. F.....	.....	.....	1-8-79	.....	.....	1-6-88	N.W. Rebellion, 1885, Medal
King, G. S.....	1-8-79	.....	.....	.....	.....	11-8-82	
Montgomery, J. T.....	.....	1-8-79	.....	.....	.....	20-3-85	
Bennett, C. C.....	.....	1-8-79	.....	.....	.....	10-4-80	
Macdonald, F.....	.....	7-5-80	.....	.....	.....	.....
Addison, J.....	28-5-75	5-5-76	.....	.....	.....	30-6-84	
Stevenson, J. R.....	.....	.....	29-5-75	.....	.....	31-3-87	
Ardagh, A. S.....	9-4-80	.....	.....	.....	.....	23-4-80	
Tremayne, F. G.....	.....	.....	20-8-80	.....	.....	18-6-86	
McKay, A. S.....	.....	26-2-81	.....	.....	.....	28-9-82	
Vennell, G.....	5-3-81	12-5-82	14-6-89	.....	.....	11-30-97	N.W. Rebellion, 1885, Medal
Leslie, J. K.....	5-3-81	20-3-85	14-6-89	25-5-98	11-1-07	8-9-09	N.W. Rebellion, 1885, Medal
Brooke, G.....	5-3-81	30-4-81	17-3-82	.....	.....	4-6-86	N.W. Rebellion, 1885, Medal
Symons, J. T.....	30-4-81	17-3-82	4-6-86	.....	.....	28-7-93	N.W. Rebellion, 1885, Medal
Douglas, M. B.....	.....	3-2-82	.....	.....	.....	1-6-88	
Brooke, C. E.....	31-3-82	.....	.....	.....	.....	25-1-84	
Stevenson, J. R.....	.....	.....	31-3-82	29-11-89	.....	21-8-97	
Moncrief, F. E.....	.....	.....	31-3-82	.....	.....	27-6-84	
Cooper, W. M.....	.....	.....	31-3-82	.....	.....	14-6-89	
McNaught, W. K.....	12-5-82	.....	.....	.....	.....	23-3-87	
Flintoff, G.....	11-8-82	.....	.....	.....	.....	18-4-84	
Ashworth G. J.....	.....	1-9-82	27-6-84	.....	.....	20-6-90	N.W. Rebellion, 1885, Medal
McSpadden, W.....	.....	9-11-83	9-11-83	30-8-89	.....	21-1-93	
Booth T. W.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	23-12-87	N.W. Rebellion, 1885, Medal

HISTORY OF THE 12TH REGIMENT, YORK RANGERS

GAZETTED

Name.....	Ensign 2nd Lieut. or Prov. Lieut.	Lieut.	Capt.	Major	Lt. Col.	Retired	Service.
Wismer, J. A.....	9-11-83	.....	.....	.....	.....	18-6-86	
Lanskail, J.....	25-1-84	3-7-86	.....	.....	.....	24-5-86	
Thompson, J. T.....	.....	.....	29-2-84	21-1-93	16-5-03	1-7-07	
Furnival, G. M.....	.....	.....	27-6-84	.....	.....	18-4-90	N.W. Rebellion, 1885, Medal
McCarty, J. C.....	.....	.....	27-6-84	.....	.....	18-4-90	
Smith, L. L. F.....	.....	.....	18-4-84	.....	.....	18-6-86	N.W. Rebellion, 1885, Medal
Chapman, M. S.....	.....	30-5-84	.....	.....	.....	1-16-88	
Allan, J. A. W.....	30-5-84	9-3-88	20-6-90	16-5-03	9-8-09	.....	N.W. Rebellion, 1885, Medal
Fleury, W. J.....	20-3-85	.....	.....	.....	.....	18-6-86	N.W. Rebellion, 1885, Medal
Crostwaite, W. J.....	.....	.....	18-6-86	.....	.....	1-6-88	
Verral, J. E.....	18-6-86	18-4-90	28-7-93	.....	.....	6-1—	
McConnell, J.....	18-6-86	.....	.....	.....	.....	9-3-88	
Hillary, R. M.....	.....	.....	15-6-88	.....	18-5-04	.....	Became Surgeon
Wayling, J., Jr.....	16-12-86	1-6-88	23-6-93	.....	.....	Seconded	
				6-23-03	.....	14-10-01	W. Africa, 01-2; W. Africa, 04-5; W. Africa, 06-6
				M 21-3-10	.....	Trans. CR 6-7-11	
Gower, J.....	.....	.....	18-6-86	.....	.....	18-4-90	Medal, 3 clasps
Bentley, W. H.....	.....	18-6-86	.....	.....	.....	.....-89	
Williamson, A. E.....	5-8-87	.....	.....	.....	.....	23-3-88	
McSpadden, G.....	.....	9-3-88	30-8-89	.....	.....	28-6-94	
Brown, F. W.....	9-3-88	31-1-90	28-7-94	.....	22-3-10	10-5-11	N.W. Rebellion, 1885, Medal
Cooper, H. B.....	23-3-88	.....	.....	.....	.....	31-1-90	
Elliott, S. B.....	20-4-88	.....	.....	.....	.....	20-6-90	
Orr, R. B.....	.....	.....	1-6-88	.....	.....	20-6-90	
Noble, T. A.....	.....	1-6-88	.....	.....	.....	19-2-92	
Holmes, C. A.....	15-6-88	.....	20-6-90	.....	.....	29-9-94	
Nicol, A. G.....	.....	31-10-89	20-5-94	.....	.....	.....
				15-8-04	.....	.....
				M 1-7-07	.....	.....
Macdonald, A. E.....	.....	31-1-90	.....	.....	.....	28-10-92	
Elliott, A.....	31-1-90	16-3-94	25-5-98	.....	.....	.....
Curran, A.....	19-4-90	25-11-92	1-6-95	.....	.....	.....	Actions at Fish Creek and Batoche, N.W. Rebellion, 1885, Medal with clasp
Gower, J.....	.....	.....	18-4-90	.....	.....	20-4-94	
Unitt, F. W.....	.....	.....	20-6-90	.....	.....	20-4-94	
Dunlop, J. A. C.....	31-1-91	.....	.....	.....	.....	22-4-92	
Sloane, W. S.....	20-3-91	.....	.....	.....	.....	4-2-93	N.W. Rebellion, 1885, Medal
Lailey, F. T.....	17-7-91	.....	.....	.....	.....	16-3-94	
Scott, C. S. W.....	23-4-92	16-3-94	.....	.....	.....	13-4-98	
Douglas, G. H.....	23-4-92	4-6-92	.....	.....	.....	17-3-94	N.W. Rebellion, 1885, Medal
Marsh, S. S.....	25-6-92	.....	.....	.....	.....	23-6-97	Died
Verral, E. H.....	23-7-92	16-3-94	6-1-00	.....	.....	14-12-07	
Lennox, T. H.....	4-6-92	21-10-99	.....	.....	.....	2-6-04	Transfererd to G.G.B.G., Actions at Fish Creek, Ba-
Mitchell, T.....	23-4-94	15-6-95	30-11-97	.....	.....	21-12-99	toche, N.W. Rebellion, 1885, Medal with clasp

HISTORY OF THE 12TH REGIMENT, YORK RANGERS

GAZETTED

Name	Ensign 2nd Lieut. or Prov. Lieut.	Lieut.	Capt.	Major	Lt.-Col.	Retired	Service.
McDonagh, T. O.....	16-3-94	.....	.....	.....	.....	15-3-98	
Ward, J. J.....	16-3-94	.....	.....	.....	.....	15-6-95	
Unitt, F. W.....	.....	.....	20-4-99	.....	.....	19-11-97	
Grantham, J. S.....	20-5-94	.....	.....	.....	.....	9-2-95	
Gillies, A.....	2-6-94	.....	.....	.....	.....	28-8-96	
Riches, C. H.....	2-6-94	28-8-96	19-11-97	.....	.....	23-5-03	
Symons, J. T.....	.....	.....	22-6-94	.....	.....	7-4-96	N.W. Rebellion, 1885, Medal
Vance, T.....	12-1-95	.....	.....	.....	.....	24-8-95	
Fawke, E. J.....	12-1-95	.....	.....	.....	.....	21-4-96	
Clark, J. J.....	9-2-95	.....	.....	.....	.....	22-1-98	
Shunk, S.....	15-6-95	.....	.....	.....	.....	1-5-99	
Knox, J. E.....	15-6-95	.....	.....	.....	.....	18-6-98	
Agnew, J.....	21-12-95	15-12-97	21-12-99	.....	.....	19-5-06	
Gray, F. A.....	21-12-95	.....	.....	.....	.....	21-9-96	
Baldwin, S. Y.....	18-1-96	.....	.....	.....	.....	15-5-99	
McLean, J. C.....	16-5-96	24-4-99	.....	.....	.....	.....
Gillies, A.....	.....	.....	28-8-96	Hon.	.....	.....	S. Africa, 1900-1, Medal, 3 clasp (D.S.M.)
Fotheringham, J. T....	.....	22- -76	.....	.....	.....	15-8-97	
Clarke, F. F.....	23-6-97	26-10-98	1-4-04	.....	.....	.....	Transferred to Q.O.R.
McCracken, J. A.....	7-8-97	.....	.....	.....	.....	10-9-98	R.C.R., III. Batt., Halifax
Anderson, H. B.....	9-8-97	9-8-97	.....	.....	.....	.....
Brunton, T. H.....	.....	.....	13-10-97	Hon.	.....	12-8-03	
Port, E. H.....	22-1-98	10-10-98	.....	.....	.....	25-4-99	
Lindsay, W. L.....	.....	7-3-98	.....	.....	.....	.....
Hunter, A. T.....	14-3-98	28-4-99	23-5-03	.....	.....	.....
Verral, A. S.....	7-7-98	.....	.....	.....	.....	18-12-07	
Hamilton, W. B.....	13-9-98	21-12-99	19-5-06	.....	.....	.....
Frankland, H. R.....	10-9-98	.....	.....	.....	.....	15-4-01	
Thompson, W. H.....	15-11-98	12-12-97	.....	.....	.....	16-4-08	
Douglas, R. Y.....	21-11-98	.....	.....	.....	.....	22-4-01	Transferred
Mussen, Rev.							
E. H., M.A ..	8-3-99	.....	.....	.....	.....	12-4-01	
Howard, W. C.....	17-4-99	.....	.....	.....	.....	23-7-01	Fenian Raid, 1866, Ridgeway
Brown, B. H.....	12-7-99	8-8-02	14-12-07	.....	.....	.....
Radcliffe, D. H.....	8-9-99	5-5-04	.....	.....	.....	25-5-05	
Oliver, W. M.....	22-4-01	7-11-01	.....	.....	.....	22-7-03	
Isaacs, G. W.....	12-12-99	.....	.....	.....	.....	14-12-06	
Douglas, W. E.....	29-12-99	.....	.....	.....	.....	10-3-05	
Knox, J. E.....	21-4-10	.....	Hon. Capt 12-8-03	Hon. M. 22-4-12	.....	.....
Murray, A. G.....	1-6-00	.....	.....	.....	.....	23-7-03	Reverts to retired list of captains
MacGillivray, Rev. A. H..	12-4-01	.....	.....	.....	.....	25-5-10	
Brunton, H. G.....	16-9-01	25-4-04	.....	.....	.....	26-10-06	2nd C.M.R., Hart River, S.A.
Brace, A. J.....	29-8-02	20-4-04	.....	.....	.....	10-5-05	2nd R.C.R., S.A., Medal, 3 clasp
Dunham, F. H.....	8-6-03	5-5-04	1-6-08	.....	.....	.....
Mitchell, G. A.....	23-12-03	20-4-04	.....	.....	.....	10-3-05	

HISTORY OF THE 12TH REGIMENT, YORK RANGERS

GAZETTED

Name.....	Ensign 2nd Lieut. or Prov. Lieut.	Lieut.	Capt.	Major	Lt. Col.	Retired	Service.
McCormack, E.....	27-19-03	20-4-04	.....	.....	.....	14-11-06	Strathcona, Horse and 2nd C.M.R.
Hobbs, J. H.....	4-5-04	31-3-05	22-3-10	.....	.....	30-9-11	Transferred Corps Reserve
Wright, J. G.....	18-5-04	30-6-05	.....	.....	.....	18-4-10	Coronation Medal
Richey, H. B.....	30-11-02	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Trasferred to A.S.C.
Ross, J. C.....	8-10-02	.....	.....	.....	.....	26-9-03	
Lea, H.....	5-8-02	.....	.....	.....	.....	5-8-03	
Nicholls, B. F.....	23-5-03	20-4-04	.....	.....	.....	14-12-06	
Jefferies, W. G.....	18-10-04	14-12-06	.....	.....	.....	14-12-06	
Noble, A. F.....	2-10-05	30-11-05	Sig. Lt. 3-5-07	.....	.....	-12-08	Died
Nicholls, E. M.....	25-6-06	21-6-07	.....	.....	.....	31-5-10	Transferred Corps Reserve
Curran, S. E.....	10-7-06	13-12-06	30-9-11	.....	.....	.....
Brann, H.....	14-12-06	1-6-08	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ross, A. C.....	28-3-07	21-6-07	.....	.....	.....	17-5-10	
Glover, W. R.....	3-4-07	21-6-07	.....	.....	.....	.....
Fowler, W. G.....	16-7-07	27-3-08	12-8-12	.....	.....	.....	N.W. Rebellion, 1885, Medal, clasp, Fish Creek, Batoche
Brown, F. F. M.....	25-7-07	14-12-07	.....	.....	.....	.....
Walker, R.....	18-11-07	27-3-08	.....	.....	.....	.....
Darlington, F. G.....	18-12-07	30-5-08	.....	.....	.....	.....
Scott, W. R.....	13-1-08	.....	.....	.....	.....	14-11-08	
Baillie, W.....	1-4-08	30-5-08	.....	.....	.....	.....
Hawkin, A. J. S.....	16-4-08	.....	.....	.....	.....	18-9-09	
Taylor, W. H.....	3-6-08	9-4-10	7-4-11	.....	.....	.....
Collins, M. C.....	4-6-08	27-6-08	.....	.....	.....	30-9-11	
Holdsworth, T. H.....	8-6-08	27-6-09	.....	.....	.....	.....
Rogers, W. T.....	29-10-09	31-5-10	.....	.....	.....	.....
Dayton, B. J.....	29-11-09	15-12-09	.....	.....	.....	.....	S. Africa
Bolt, F. P.....	16-3-10	.....	.....	.....	.....	2-8-11	
Fletcher, A. G. A.....	.....	18-4-10	.....	.....	.....	.....
Orr, H.....	27-5-10	8-6-10	.....	.....	.....	.....	Transferred
Williamson, J. L.....	19-6-11	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Reesor, R. J.....	14-4-11	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Pink, W. G.....	8-4-12	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Proctor, J. H.....	23-12-11	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Tomlin, H. N.....	10-2-12	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

APPENDIX C

LETTER OF COL. CRUIKSHANK

M.D. No. 13

S.O. File.

HEAD-QUARTERS, MILITARY DISTRICT No. 13.,

CALGARY, ALTA., 11th November, 1911.

From,

THE DISTRICT OFFICER COMMANDING, MILITARY DISTRICT No. 13.

To,

CAPTAIN F. H. DUNHAM, Adjutant, 12th Regt. York Rangers.

re York Volunteers:

Sir,—With reference to your letter on the marginally noted subject dated the 4th instant, and received this day I have the honour to inform you that in 1812 the County of York in Upper Canada, in addition to its present limits, included the present Counties of Peel and Halton and portions of Simcoe and Wentworth. There were three regiments of York Militia, the 1st, 2nd and 3rd. On the creation of the Gore District and the County of Wentworth in 1816, the 2nd Regiment of York Militia became the 1st Gore Regiment. ^{1812?}

At the action of Queenston, 13th October, 1812, Captain Thomas Selby's flank company of the 1st York, under Lieutenant Reuben Richardson; Captain John Chisholm's and Captain William Applegarth's flank companies of the 2nd York and Captain Duncan Cameron's and Captain Stephen Heward's flank companies of the 3rd York, the latter commanded by Lieutenant John Beverley Robinson, afterwards Chief Justice, were present.

Selby's company was recruited along Yonge Street north of the present City of Toronto: Chisholm's and Applegarth's were recruited from the vicinity of Burlington Bay in the present County of Wentworth, and Cameron's and Heward's from the town of York and surrounding country.

Captain Applegarth and Duncan Cameron and Lieutenant Richardson are named in Major-General Sheaffe's dispatch to Sir George Prevost, dated October 13th, 1812; a copy of which is in the Dominion Archives (Series Q, Vol. 118, p. 281) as having "led their men into action with great spirit." The name of Captain Chisholm was mentioned in a subsequent despatch from Sheaffe to Prevost, November 3rd, 1812, Dominion Archives (Series C, Vol. 677, p. 106) as having been omitted. The names of the above officers with the exception of Captain Chisholm also appear in the General Order by the Adjutant General dated at Montreal, 21st October, 1812.

HISTORY OF THE 12TH REGIMENT, YORK RANGERS

In my opinion the evidence is conclusive that your Corps represent the 1st York Regiment of Militia of which Selby's flank company was present at Queenston on the 13th October, 1812, and Selby's flank company and Captain Peter Robinson's rifle company were present at the surrender of Detroit on the 16th August, 1812.

I may add that I will at any time be most pleased to furnish any further information in my power that you may require to substantiate your claim.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

E. A. CRUIKSHANK, Lieut.-Colonel,
Commanding Military District No. 13.

APPENDIX D

MEMO re THE YORK VOLUNTEERS AT THE BATTLE OF QUEENSTON HEIGHTS

(*Furnished by Dr. Doughty, Dominion Archivist*)

He fell (Lieut.-Col. McDonnell), while gallantly charging up the hill with one hundred and ninety men, chiefly of the York Volunteers, by which charge the enemy was compelled to spike the eighteen pounder in the battery there.—(From Tupper's "Life of Brock.")

"On the morning of the battle of Queenston, Hatt's Company, 5th Lincoln, was the only force at Queenston; Chisholm's 2nd York was stationed on the brow of the Heights; Cameron's and Heward's were at Brown's Point, arriving at Queenston as Brock was wounded."—(Irving's "War of 1812-1815.")

3rd Regiment, York Militia—This regiment's designation was changed to "2nd Regiment of York Militia," the former 2nd York being called the "1st Gore," (Militia General Order, 10 July, 1816).

2nd Regiment, York Militia—On the creation of the District of Gore and the County of Wentworth in 1816, this Corps became the "1st Gore Regiment."

1st Regiment, York Militia—According to the return of September 24th, 1813, in the Archives, the regiment consisted of the North and South Divisions. The former was composed of Tyler's (No. 2), Traver's (No. 8), Robinson's (No. 6), Selby's (No. 4), and Richardson's (No. 7); the latter included Willson's (No. 1), Arnold's (No. 3), Fenwick's (No. 9), Mustard's (No. 5), Button's (No. 11), and No. 10, under Lieut. Miles.

HISTORY OF THE 12TH REGIMENT, YORK RANGERS

APPENDIX E

A PARTIAL LIST OF RIFLE SHOOTING RECORD, SHOWING SOME OF THE HIGHER PLACES WON BY TEAMS OR INDIVIDUALS OF THE 12TH FROM 1885-1910

DOMINION RIFLE ASSOCIATION MATCHES

1885

Gzowski Cup, won by 12th.

1891

Winnipeg Manufacturers' Match, won by Lieut. A. Elliott, with a possible of 35.

Minister of Militia Match—Eighth place, 12th Regiment team 19 points behind winners.

British Challenge Shield—Sixth place, 12th Regiment.

Extra Series—500 yards, Lieut. A. Elliott, possible.

1892

Grand Aggregate (Bisley Team)—Staff Sergt. Simpson, 315 points.

Hamilton Powder Company Match—Second place, Col. Sergt. Foreman, 34.

Gzowski Match—Seventh place, 12th Regiment.

British Challenge Shield—First place, 12th Regiment.

(Two members on Bisley team, Lieut. T. Mitchell, and Staff Sergt. Mitchell.)

1893

MacDougall Challenge Cup Match—Second place, Private T. S. Bayles.

Dominion Canada Team Prize and Davis & Sons Cup—Second place, 12th Regiment.

Walker Challenge Cup Match—First place, 12th team composed of: Lieut. T. Mitchell, Lieut. A. Elliott, Staff Sergt. J. H. Simpson, Staff Sergt. Geo. Thompson, Private T. S. Bayles; score, 520.

Kirkpatrick Match—Fourth place, Lieut. A. Curran.

Henshaw Match—Second place, Staff Sergt. Simpson.

Gzowski Match—Eighth place, 12th Regiment team.

Lansdowne Aggregate—First place, 12th Regiment team.

Bankers' Prize (Grand Aggregate)—12th Regiment; first place, Staff Sergt. Simpson; second place, Staff Sergt. Davidson, with seven members in all from first to thirteenth places.

Governor General's Match—First, Staff Sergt. Simpson; second, Lieut. T. Mitchell; third, Staff Sergt. A. Bell.

Bisley Team (to represent Canada in 1894)—Staff Sergt. Simpson, 1; Private Bayles, 2; Lieut. A. Curran, 4; Lieut. T. Mitchell, 5; Staff Sergt. Bell, 9. (It is worthy of remark that three men of the above five were in the final one hundred of the Queen's Prize at Bisley, Lieut. Mitchell, third place; Staff Sergt. Davidson, thirty-second place, and Staff Sergt. Bell, fifty-fourth place. This team won the Ranelagh Match carrying off the Ranelagh Cups from the picked regimental teams of the British Volunteer forces of the Empire. Two of the above team won grand aggregate scores at Bisley, Staff Sergt. Simpson and Lieut. T. Mitchell).

1894

The Hon. the Minister of Militia's Match, won by Lieut. T. Mitchell, 12th Regiment.

Team Match—Third place, won by 12th Regiment.

The Lansdowne Aggregate won by 12th Team—Lieut. T. Mitchell, Staff Sergt. Davidson, Staff Sergt. Simpson, Sergt. Bayles, Sergt. Geo. Thompson; score, 1,047.

Bankers' Grand Aggregate—Second place won by Lieut. T. Mitchell.

Bisley Team for 1895—Three men, namely, Lieut. Mitchell, Staff Sergt. Bell, and Staff Sergt. Simpson.

Extra Series—800 yards, second place, Staff Sergt. Simpson.

1895

Hon. the Minister of Militia's Match—Fourth place, Capt. Curran.

Extra Series—800 yards, won by Lieut. Mitchell.

1897

Grand Aggregate—Second place, Lieut. T. Mitchell

Extra Series Aggregate—Lieut. T. Mitchell.

1898

Capt. Mitchell won place, Bisley team for 1899.

1899

Bankers' Match—Third place, Capt. A. Curran.

HISTORY OF THE 12TH REGIMENT, YORK RANGERS

1900

Dominion Canada Match—Fourth place, Capt. Elliott.

Capt. Elliott won place on Bisley team for 1901, eleventh place.

1902

Capt. Elliott won eighth place Bisley team for 1903, and at Bisley won Keystone Burgundy Cup, valued at forty-two guineas at 1000 yards, and over \$50.00 in other prizes.

Extra Series—600 yards, first place, Capt. Curran.

1903

Private W. G. Fowler won place on Bisley team for 1904.

1904

Walker Match—Third place, Capt. F. W. Brown.
Dominion of Canada Match—Fourth place, Capt. Elliott.

Ross Match—Fifth place, Sergt. E. M. Nicholls.

Bisley Aggregate—Capt. Elliott won tenth place in Bisley team for 1905. (Shot on Canadian Bisley team at Bisley in Kolapore Match, 200, 500, 600 yards, making a record for the British Empire in this match, which had been competed for forty-two years; score, 34, 35, 34, = 103 points out of a possible 105).

ONTARIO RIFLE ASSOCIATION MATCHES

1888

Gordon Match—Second place, Lieut. I. Lanskail.
Tait Brassey Match—First place, Lieut. Lanskail.

Tait Brassey—Battalion team, sixth place (nine teams competed).

Gzowski Match (six man team)—First place won by 12th Regiment.

Volley Firing—Second place won by 12th Regiment.

1889

Walker (five man team) Match—12th Regiment won sixth place. Thirty-one teams competed.

Tait Brassey Battalion Team Eight Men—12th Regiment won second place. Eleven teams competed.

Company Teams—A Company, eighth place. Eleven teams competed.

Gzowski Match—Skirmishing, second place, 12th Regiment.

1890

MacDonald Match Standing—Lieut. Elliott, second place; Staff Sergt. Graham, fourth place; Staff Sergt. Bell, tenth place; Staff Sergt. Ronan, fifteenth place; Lieut. Curran, nineteenth place.

Gilmore Match—Lieut. A. Curran, first place.

Walker Team Match (five man team)—12th Regiment, second. Twenty-nine teams competed.

Walker Individual Match—Staff Sergt. Bell, second place.

1905

Bankers' Match—First place, Sergt. E. M. Nicholls.
Macdougall Match—First place, Sergt. W. G. Fowler.

Henshaw Match—First place, 1,000 yards, Sergt. W. G. Fowler.

Sergt. E. M. Nicholls won ninth place, Bisley Team.
Sergt. W. G. Fowler won fifteenth place, Bisley Team for 1906.

(Sergt. Nicholls on team which won Kolapore Cup, made score of 101).

1906

Tyro Match—Third place, Capt. A. T. Hunter.
Dominion Match—Fourth place, Sergt. W. Mitchell.

1907

Macdougall Match won by Capt. A. T. Hunter.
Mitchell Sight Match—Second place, Sergt. W. G. Fowler.

1908

Extra Series—800 yards, first prize, Major F. W. Brown.

1910

Burland Match—1,000 yards, second place, Major Elliott, 34 points.

Tait Brassey—Battalion team match, eight man 12th Regiment, second place.

Company Team Match (five men)—A Company 12th Regiment, first place.

Tait Brassey—Individual prizes—Lieut. A. Elliott, second place.

Mulock Aggregate—Staff Sergt. Bell, second place; Staff Sergt. Simpson, fourth place; Staff Sergt. Thompson, tenth place; Lieut. Elliott, eleventh place; Lieut. Curran, fifteenth place.

Gibson Match—Open to fifty highest scores in first stage—Second place, Staff Sergt. Simpson; seventh place, Lieut. F. W. Brown.

Gzowski Match—Third place, volley firing, 12th Regiment.

1891

Gordon Match, 600 yards—Fifth place, Lieut. A. Elliott.

McDonald Match Standing—Second place, Staff Sergt. Bell.

Tait Brassey—Battalion team (six men), 12th Regiment, third place (twelve teams competed); company team, third place won by A Company 12th Regiment (twenty-three teams competed); twelfth place won by C Company 12th Regiment.

Gzowski Match—Skirmishing, second place won by 12th Regiment.

HISTORY OF THE 12TH REGIMENT, YORK RANGERS

Extra Series 500—Third prize won by Lieut. Elliott, 12th Regiment.

Time Match—One minute, first prize won by Lieut. A. Elliott.

1892

No meeting on account of new Range not being completed.

1893

The Gilmore Match—First place won by Lieut. A. Elliott, a possible.

Tait Brassey—Battalion teams (six men), fourth place, 12th Regiment. (Twelve teams competed).

McDonald Standing—Eight place, Lieut. Elliott.

The Gzowski—Skirmishing, 12th Regiment, fifth place.

Volley Firing—12th Regiment, first place.

Aggregate—Q.O.R. and 12th Regiment, tie first place.

Revolver Match—Second place, Sergt. Geo. Thompson; third place, Lieut. A. Elliott.

1894

Tait Brassey—Battalion team match, fourth place won by 12th Regiment (sixteen teams competed); Company Match, second place won by A Company, 12th Regiment (eighteen teams competed).

McDonald Match—First place won by Lieut. T. Mitchell.

Gibson Match—Sixth place won by Lieut. T. Mitchell.

The Mulock Aggregate—Fourth place won by Lieut. T. Mitchell.

The Gzowski Match—Third place won by 12th Regiment.

Extra Series 600 Yards—Seventh place won by Lieut. A. Elliott.

1895

Revolver Match—Third place, Lieut. Mitchell.

Extra Series 200 Yards—First place, Lieut. Mitchell.

Extra Series 600 Yards—Fifth place, Lieut. Mitchell.

1896

Revolver Match—Second place, Lieut. T. Mitchell.

Extra Series 500 Yards—First place, Lieut. T. Mitchell.

1897

The Corporation of the City of Toronto Team Match—Team, Capt. Curran, Lieut. Mitchell, Lieut. Elliott, Col. Sergt. Mowat, Private Fairbairn, second place, 12th Regiment. (Thirty-four teams competed.)

Individual Prizes, Corporation of the City of Toronto—Fifth place, Private J. K. Fairbairn.

Mulock Aggregate—Fifth place, Lieut. T. Mitchell.

Toronto Railway Competition—Fourth place, Lieut. A. Elliott.

1898

The Canadian Club Match, 600 Yards—Fourth place won by Capt. A. Elliott, 48 points. Possible, 50.

Gordon Match, 600 Yards, 7 Shots—First place won by Capt. A. Elliott, 35 points.

Corporation of the City of Toronto Match, 500 and 600 yards, 7 shots at 500, 10 shots at 600 yards,—Second place won by Capt. A. Elliott, 83 points out of a possible 85 points.

The Mulock Aggregate—Second place won by Capt. T. Mitchell; third place won by Capt. A. Elliott.

The Nursery Aggregate—Seventh place won by Private W. Latimer.

Extra Series, 200—Second place won by Capt. T. Mitchell.

1899

Canadian Club—Third place won by Capt. Mitchell. Revolver Match—Second place won by Lieut Agnew. 200 Extra Series—Second place won by Capt. Mitchell.

800 Extra Series—Second place won by Capt. Mitchell.

1900

Corporation of the City of Toronto—Fifth place won by Capt. A. Elliott.

Tait Brassey Match—Eighth place won by Capt. A. Elliott.

Mulock Aggregate—Second place won by Capt. A. Elliott.

Revolver Match—Fifth place won by Capt. Agnew. 800 Yards Extra Series—Third place, tie, won by Capt. A. Elliott.

1901

MacDonald—Seventh place won by Capt. A. Elliott.

1902

Tait Brassey Match—Third place, Capt. A. Elliott.

Mulock Aggregate—Sixth place won by Capt. A. Elliott.

1903

Canada Company Match—Seventh place won by Lieut. F. F. Clarke.

Duke of Cornwall and York—Fourth place won by Capt. F. W. Brown; seventh place won by Private W. G. Fowler.

1904

McDonald Match—Second place won by Lieut. W. H. Thompson.

Osler Match—Second place won by Lieut. W. H. Thompson; eighth place won by Capt. Elliott.

Tait Brassey—Eighth place won by Sergt. W. J. Cook.

Alleomers Aggregate—Seventh place won by Capt. A. Elliott.

Revolver Match—Fourth place won by Sergt. W. J. Cook.

The Wheeler & Wilson Match (200 yards)—Second place won by Sergt. E. M. Nicholls.

HISTORY OF THE 12TH REGIMENT, YORK RANGERS

1905

Canada Company Match—Fifth prize won by Lieut. F. H. Dunham; twelfth prize won by Col. Sergt. R. J. Foord.

The Osler Match—Second place won by Sergt. W. G. Fowler.

The Mackenzie—Eighth place won by Capt. A. Elliott.

Revolver Match—First place won by Lieut. W. G. Jefferies.

The Wheeler & Wilson Match—Sixth prize won by Sergt. E. M. Nicholls.

The El Padre Needle Cigar Match—Won by Capt. A. Elliott.

The P. W. Ellis Match—Eighth place won by Lieut. W. G. Jefferies.

Mitchell Rifle Sight Match—Fourth place won by Capt. A. T. Hunter.

1906

Canadian Club Match—Battalion teams of five men, first place won by 12th Regiment; team—Major Brown, Capt. A. Elliott, Lieut. Jefferies, Lieut. Nicholls, Sergt. W. G. Fowler. Individual prizes—third prize, Lieut. W. G. Jefferies, 33 points; fifth prize, Lieut. E. M. Nicholls, 33 points; sixth prize, Capt. A. Elliott, 33 points.

City of Toronto—Regimental teams of five men, fifth place won by 12th Regiment.

The Duke of Cornwall and York—Seventh place won by Lieut. W. G. Jefferies.

The Tait Brassey Match—First place won by Capt. A. Elliott, 99 points.

1907

The Canada Company Match—Ninth place won by Private R. J. Foord, Jr.

The Canadian Club Match—Third place won by Sergt. Geo. Thompson.

The Corporation of the City of Toronto—Battalion teams (five men), fifth place won by 12th Regiment.

The Bankers' Match—Second place won by Capt. A. Elliott, 68 points; 12th place, Capt. Dunham, 65 points.

The Duke of Cornwall and York—Fifth place won by Lieut. E. M. Nicholls.

Macdonald Match—Sixth place won by Sergt. W. G. Fowler.

The Militia Aggregate—Second place won by Capt. A. Elliott.

1908

Corporation of the City of Toronto—Sixth place won by Lieut. E. M. Nicholls.

The Tait Brassey—Battalion teams (six men), third place won by 12th Regiment.

1909

The Tyro Match—Tenth place won by Sergt. Pringle.

1910

The P. W. Ellis, etc., Match—Ninth place won by Major F. W. Brown.

1911

City Hamilton Match—Eighth place won by Private W. J. Kester.

Bankers' Match—Seventh place won by Lieut. R. J. Reesor.

The Tait Brassey Match—Company team (four men), third place won by C Company, 12th Regiment.

Extra Series 200 Yards—Fifth place won by Major A. Elliott.

RECAPITULATION O.R.A.

SPECIAL REGIMENTAL HONORS

THE GZOWSKI CUP

1882—Won by 12th Regiment.

1893—Won by 12th Regiment.

THE BRASSEY CUP TEAMS

1880—Won by 12th Regiment.

1890—Won by 12th Regiment. Tie with Q.O.R.

THE CANADIAN CLUB JUBILEE CHALLENGE TROPHY

1906—Won by 12th Regiment.

WINNERS OF NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION MEDALS

1893—Staff Sergt. Simpson, 12th Regiment.

1900—Capt. Elliott, 12th Regiment.

WINNERS OF GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SILVER MEDALS

1884—Staff Sergt. A. Bell, 12th Regiment.

1898—Capt. T. Mitchell, 12th Regiment.

1900—Capt. A. Elliott, 12th Regiment.

1907—Capt. A. Elliott, 12th Regiment.

WINNERS OF GOVERNOR GENERAL'S BRONZE MEDALS

1898—Capt. A. Elliott, 12th Regiment.

WINNERS OF DOMINION OF CANADA ASSOCIATION SILVER MEDAL

1894—Lieut. T. Mitchell, 12th Regiment.

WINNERS OF DOMINION OF CANADA RIFLE ASSOCIATION BRONZE MEDAL

1897—Capt. T. Mitchell, 12th Regiment.

1902—Capt. A. Elliott, 12th Regiment.

HISTORY OF THE 12TH REGIMENT, YORK RANGERS

RECAPITULATION D.R.A.

1894 (at Bisley)—The Ranelagh Cups for Battalion teams six men.

WINNERS OF GOVERNOR GENERAL'S PRIZE, D.R.A.

1893—First prize, Staff Sergt. J. H. Simpson; second prize, Lieut. T. Mitchell; third prize, Staff Sergt. A. Bell.

WINNERS OF GRAND AGGREGATE FIRST AND SECOND PLACE D.R.A.

1882—Private A. Bell, second place.

1893—First, Staff Sergt. J. H. Simpson, first place; second, Staff Sergt. J. H. Davidson, second place.

1894—Second place, Lieut. T. Mitchell.
1897—Second place, Lieut. T. Mitchell.

MEMBERS OF WIMBLEDON AND BISLEY TEAMS

1894—Sergt. T. S. Bayles.
1886, 1894—Sergt. A. Bell.
1894—Lieut. A. Curran.
1894—Staff Sergt. W. J. Davidson.
1901, 1903, 1905—Capt. A. Elliott.
1904—Private W. G. Fowler.
1906—Sergt. E. M. Nicholls.
1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, 1898, 1899—Staff Sergt. J. H. Simpson.

APPENDIX F

THE STAFF OF THE YORK-SIMCOE PROVISIONAL BATTALION AND THE ROLLS OF THE YORK RANGER'S COMPANIES

Lieut.-Col. W. E. O'Brien.
Senior Major, Lieut.-Col. R. Tyrwhitt.
Junior Major, Lieut.-Col. A. Wyndham.
Adjt. Capt. J. Ward.
Paymaster W. Hunter.
Qr. Master L. Smith.
Surgeon D. G. L. McCarthy.

Chaplain Gilmour.
Sergt. Major S. A. Dougall.
Q.M. Sergt. C. Collett.
Paymaster Sergt. F. McGreal.
Hosp. Sergt. R. W. McCankey.
O.R. Clerk Lang.
Bugle Major Ward.

NO. 5 COMPANY

Capt. J. T. Thompson (1).	Private Cairns.	Private Oliver.
Lieut. G. Vennell (2).	" Donoghue.	" Patton.
Lieut. G. Sutherland	" Toote.	" Powers.
Col. Sergt. Rideout.	" Felstead.	A. Potter.
Sergt. Smith.	" Foord.	" G. Potter.
Sergt. Toote.	" Gray.	" Phypers.
Corp. Beel.	" Goodwin.	" Rideout.
Corp. T. W. Maleomb.	" Graham.	" Stewart.
Corp. T. Gilmore.	" Gilmore.	" Shannon.
Bugler Slaatherly.	" Gould.	" Spaulding.
Private A. Armstrong.	" Hutton.	" Shirton.
" Brown.	" Hands.	" P. J. Smith.
" Brown.	" Kirkpatrick.	" W. Smith.
" Barry.	" Laird.	" Theobald.
" Coulter.	" Lindsay.	" Woods.
" Cox.	" Lueas.	" Waterstone.
" Crawford.	" Margaeah.	

HISTORY OF THE 12TH REGIMENT, YORK RANGERS

NO. 6 COMPANY.

Capt. G. H. C. Brooke.	Private Clumphitt.	Private Lansdell.
Lieut. Symons.	" Cracknell.	" Marshall.
Lieut. Ashworth.	" Cruickshank.	" McLean.
Col. Sergt. Fraser.	" Crawford.	" Oliver.
Sergt. Rennington.	" Dillon.	" Pritchard.
Sergt. Greatis.	" Dixon.	" Prior.
Corp. Bell.	" Dowling.	" Stewart.
Corp. Greatis.	" Enright.	" Suart.
Corp. Greno.	" Emerson.	" Sutton.
Bugler McMullen.	" Fontaine.	" Studholme.
Bugler Palmer.	" Hawarth.	" Torrance.
Private Adams.	" Henry.	" Tippins.
" Brady.	" Hoodless.	" Terry.
" Bartlett.	" Hogg.	" Woodhouse.
" Connors.	" Husband.	" Ferrmantle.
" Churchill.	" Lafferty.	

NO. 7 COMPANY.

Capt. Smith.	Private Connell.	Private Moore.
Lieut. Booth.	" Cuttell.	" McLeod.
Lieut. Fleury.	" Cockburn.	" Mundell.
Col. Sergt. Taylor (3).	" Crawford.	" Matt.
Sergt. Price.	" Durich.	" Ough.
Sergt. Ego.	" Dent.	" O'Brien.
Corp. Farr.	" Ellison.	" Pugh.
Corp. Montgomery.	" Ego.	" Pringle.
Corp. Hand.	" Grindley.	" Smith.
Private Andrews.	" Hewitt.	" Stonehouse.
" Bowser.	" Hand.	" Tetley.
" Bellinger.	" Harman.	" Taylor.
" Baldwin.	" Homer.	" Wooding.
" Burns.	" Lyons.	" J. Young.
" Crockard.	" Long.	" T. Young.
" Crosley.		

NO. 8 COMPANY.

Major Wayling (4).	Private Fenton.	Private Pegg.
Lieut. Leslie (5).	" Gray.	" Rigsley.
Lieut. Allan (6).	" Hewitt.	" Sloan.
Col. Sergt. Kavanagh.	" Hollingshead.	" Taylor.
Sergt. Bogart.	" King.	" Tansley.
Sergt. Wernham.	" Kettle.	" Thompson.
Corp. Keith.	" Lowe.	" M. Terry.
Corp. Piper.	" Longhurst.	" C. Wernham.
Corp. Terry	" Lippard.	" J. Wernham.
Private Armstrong.	" Mitchell.	" J. West.
" Adamson.	" Manners.	" A. West.
" Beller.	" Miller.	" Waston.
" Blencoe.	" Peak.	" Younge.
" Flintoff.		

(1) Afterwards Lieut-Col. of the 12th.

(2) Afterwards Capt. Vennell.

(3) Now Capt. W. H. Taylor of the Aurora Company.

(4) Afterwards Lieut.-Col. and now Hon. Lieut.-Col. of the 12th.

(5) Afterwards Lieut.-Col. of the 12th.

(6) Now Lieut.-Col. of the 12th.

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